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23 May 1974 : 10p

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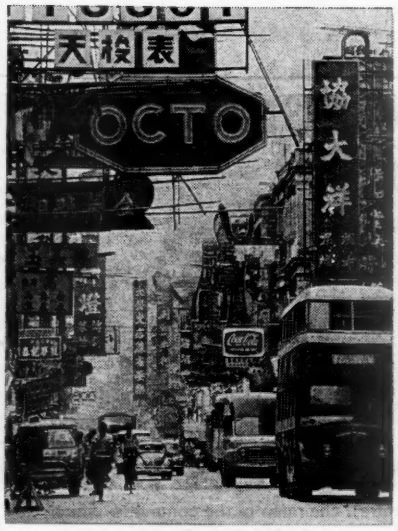
Trade and Industry

23 May 1974



Hong Kong . . . where four and a half million people, with one of the highest per capita GDP's in the world, crowd into an area of 400 square miles. Last year UK exports to the colony increased by 28 per cent to £127 million – but our share of the £2,400 million import market was only 6 per cent. An added reason for exporting to Hong Kong is its role as an important market place for the Far East. Opportunities are outlined by the Senior British Trade Commissioner.

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Britain

Extension of trade marks to services recommended

Committee reports on trade mark law and practice

Provision for registration of trade marks was first made in the United Kingdom in 1875. Since then the law has been developed and the current Trade Marks Act 1938 followed the recommendations of a departmental committee which reported in 1934. Now, 40 years later, a departmental committee under the chairmanship of Mr. H. R. Mathys (now Sir Reginald Mathys) has made a thorough review of British trade mark law and practice in a report issued last week as a command paper (Cmnd 5601).*

The Committee's formation was announced in Parliament on 24 July 1972 with the following terms of reference:

> To examine British trade mark law and practice and consider whether any changes are needed in the light of present day trading conditions and international developments.

The members were:

Mr. P. L. Bowtell	Chartered patent agent
Mr. Douglas Falconer, MBE, QC	
Lady Hamilton, OBE	Chairman of the Disabled Living Foundation
Mr. John Hooper	Managing director of Industrial Newspapers Ltd.
Brigadier M. S. K. Maunsell, CBE, DSO	A director of Gallaher Ltd., and of Brooke Bond Liebig Ltd.
Mr. Douglas Parker	Head of the Trade Marks Department of Shell International Petroleum Ltd.

After 61 formal meetings the Committee submitted its report in December 1973.

The role of trade marks today

The Committee conclude that, while trading conditions have changed in the last 40 years, the function of trade marks, which include brand names, house marks and manufacturers' marks, remains substantially unaltered. Trade marks enable customers to identify goods for both initial purchases and for repeat orders. It is the responsibility of the trade mark owner to satisfy the customers and so maintain the value of his trade mark.

The Committee find that United Kingdom industry, trade and commerce regard trade marks as being of prime importance in promoting home and international trade. The Committee's recommendations generally support continuance of the current law and practice which have worked well.

International aspects

The Committee recommend continuance of support for international treaties aimed at assisting international trade. They also recommend co-operation in negotiations for the proposed convention for a European trade mark and support the offer to provide a suitable office and other facilities in London. They recommend that the United Kingdom should seek the incorporation of a full examination of applications for European trade marks on the lines of the British system.

Sir Reginald Mathys (centre), chairman of the committee which undertook the review of the British trade mark law and practice, makes a point at the Press conference held to mark the publication of the committee's report. With him in the picture are two other members of the committee – Peter Bowtell (left) and Douglas Parker.

Marks for services

At present only trade marks used in relation to goods may be registered. The Committee find a widespread desire to be able to register marks used for services offered in the course of trade or business. They recommend extension of registration to marks for services on the same lines as for goods so far as is feasible.

What may be registered and the rights given

The Committee recommend that the colour or shape of goods, the shape of containers, smells, and sounds should not be registrable and should be clearly excluded from the trade mark legislation.

The main strength of the British system of trade mark registration is seen by the Committee as the certainty of the rights which is given to trade mark owners. The clear definition of those rights is considered important to industry and the public generally. The Committee recommend retaining the present definition of exclusive rights and infringement in the Trade Marks Act 1938. At present audible misuse of a trade mark does not constitute infringement. The Committee consider that in view of the present day developments in the use of recorded sounds, radio and television for commercial purposes, protection should be extended to audible use of registered trade marks.

The Committee heard much discussion and found much divergence of view on whether or not infringement rights should be extended. There were two main proposals. First that rights should extend beyond the goods of the registration, for example, to similar goods, as is the case in some other countries. Second that they should cover what were described as unfair trading practices, namely unfair competition between

* HMSO, price 73p, 78½p post paid (ISBN 0 10 156010 9).

traders. The Committee find little evidence of hardship in these areas and consider that other ways are available of dealing with the problems of aggrieved persons. They therefore recommend against extending the law in respect of these matters.

Common law rights

The recommendation to continue the existing definition of rights and infringement is accompanied by a recommendation that common law rights should be retained in full. These enable trade mark owners to take action both in respect of trade marks which, for one reason or another are not registered, and of registered trade marks against acts outside the area covered by registration, the onus being on an aggrieved person to prove his case. It is seen as an advantage that this form of action may be developed to meet changing trade practices in a way which would not be possible by statute.

The trade marks register

The present register of trade marks is divided into two parts, A and B. A somewhat lower degree of distinctiveness is required for Part B but protection given by registration in that Part is not as comprehensive as in Part A. The Committee accept that there is little difference to the proprietor in practice between the rights acquired by registration on his mark in Part A and Part B. In the interest of simplification they recommend that the two parts of the register should be merged and that marks in the single register should have the same rights as at present given in Part A. They also recommend that the criterion for registration for the new register should correspond with the lesser degree of distinctiveness now required for Part B.

The Committee heard conflicting views about whether some form of official list should be established as well as the register in which details could be deposited of trade marks in use which failed to meet the criteria for inclusion in the trade marks register. There was a generally held view that a comprehensive list of marks in use would be of value. But no satisfactory proposals were made for encouraging or ensuring that marks would be entered on such a list which did not detract from the value of the existing register of trade marks or the common law rights which witnesses wished to retain. The Committee therefore recommend against establishing any supplementary list of trade marks and propose that industry should encourage trade associations to maintain lists of trade marks in use.

Other recommendations

The Committee endorse the continuance of the provisions of the Trade Marks Act 1938 under which the Registrar examines applications before registration to ensure that they are distinctive, are not deceptive, and do not conflict with previously registered marks. A number of specific recommendations aim at simplifying procedure and at providing the Trade Marks Registry with appropriate housing, equipment, and staffing.

Among other recommendations made by the Committee are:

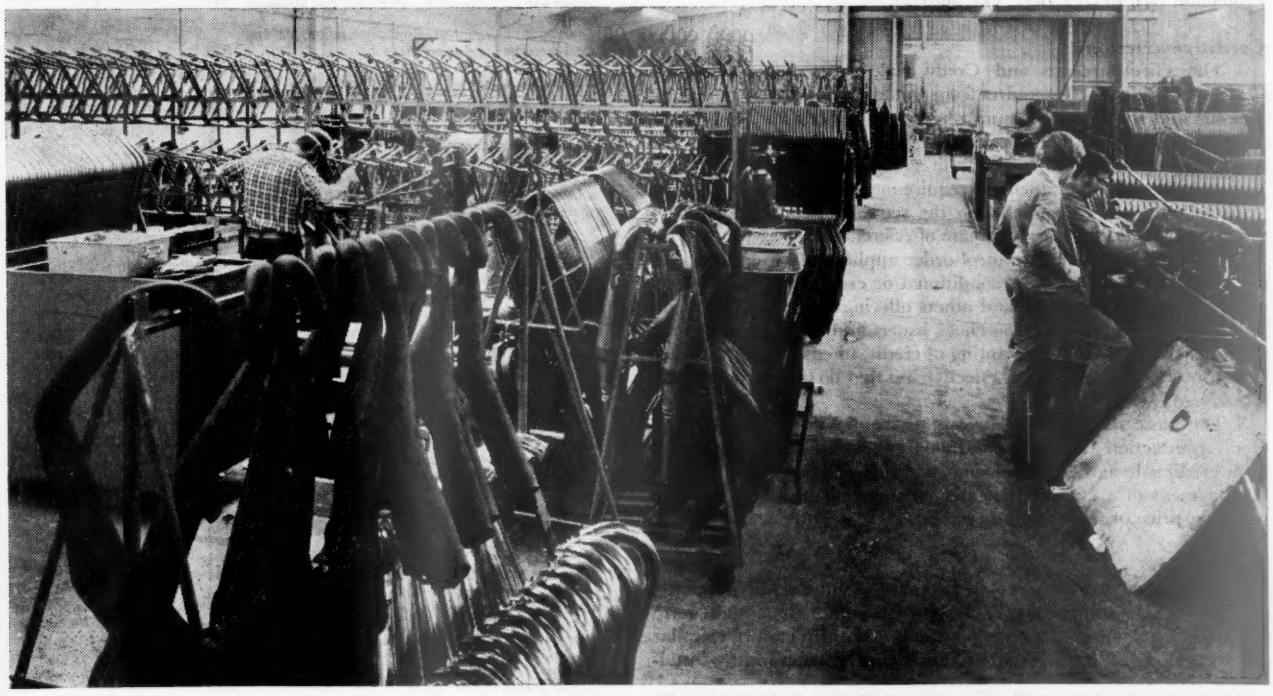
(a) machinery should be set up to enable trade mark owners to oppose registration of company or business names which conflict with their trade marks.

(b) arrangements for recording the use of trade marks under licence should be simplified.

(c) a Standing Advisory Committee should be established for consultation as required.

Consideration of the Report

In answer to a Parliamentary Question on 16 May 1974, Mr. Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade, expressed appreciation of the Committee's hard work and the speed with which they made a comprehensive review. He said their recommendations would be studied with care. Industrial, commercial and professional interests would be consulted and he hoped that they and others concerned would consider the report and make their views known to the Registrar of Trade Marks.



Companies both small and large were among the recipients of this year's Queen's Award to Industry for export achievement. Among the smaller companies to gain the 1974 award was Rickman Brothers (Engineering) Ltd., of New Milton, Hampshire. Employing fewer than 100 people, the company manufactures off-the-road and competition motorcycles. Its exports now exceed £1 million a year, having more than trebled since 1971. Of total production, 89 per cent is exported. So far the company has concentrated on the highly competitive United States market, but it is now planning to expand to other areas.

Home News

Confusion over credit restrictions: DPCP to issue explanatory notes

The Hire Purchase and Credit Sale Agreements (Control) Order 1973 and the Control of Hiring Order 1973 were introduced on 18 December 1973 imposing minimum deposits and maximum repayment terms for listed goods subject to hire purchase and credit sale agreements, and minimum advance rental payments for listed goods subject to hiring agreements.

Parallel to these statutory controls, the Governor of the Bank of England asked banks and finance houses offering loans to persons or trading checks to impose similar restrictions when providing finance for the purchase of goods subject to the control. He also asked those concerned to restrict the terms of facilities available on credit cards. Others offering trading checks, vouchers and personal loans were asked to impose similar restrictions on their credit trading.

Subsequent inquiries and correspondence between traders and the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection has revealed some confusion about Government requirements in certain areas of credit trading. Moreover, there is evidence that some traders have been deliberately misconstruing the requirements in order to gain a competitive advantage.

The Department has therefore prepared the following explanatory notes on the working of the credit restrictions and is to circulate them to trade associations and other interested bodies.

The notes are for information only and do not have any binding force. Nor are they an exhaustive explanation of the actual terms and details of the Control Orders, the ultimate interpretation of which is of course a matter for the courts.

Inquiries about the memorandum should be addressed to the Consumer Credit Branch, Department of Prices and Consumer Protection (tel. 01-222 7877, ext. 3601/2).

Credit restrictions

1 The Hire-Purchase and Credit Sale Agreements (Control) Order 1973 (No. 2129) requires from would-be purchasers minimum deposits and specifies maximum repayment periods for goods listed therein and sold under hire purchase, conditional sale or credit sale agreements (other than 'short term credit sale agreements'* and lays down certain other ancillary requirements. The goods concerned ('controlled goods') together with the required deposit and repayment are set out in Table 1 for ease of reference.

2 Because the statutory control order applies only to goods being purchased on hire purchase, conditional or credit sale, the Government have asked financiers and others offering other kinds of credit for controlled goods, including check issuers and retailers, to observe voluntary restraints in the granting of credit, to ensure not only that the statutory controls are fully effective but that no unfair competitive advantage is created.

3 The basic method of control is to require in relation to each credit transaction involving controlled goods, other than a 'short-term credit sale agreement' or one covered by paragraph 12 below, the payment of a cash deposit and payment of the balance of the purchase price over a minimum period.

The deposit

4 The control order requires from purchasers under hire purchase, conditional sale and credit sale agreements (other than 'short-term credit sale agreements') the payment of a deposit in cash. (A similar prepayment must also be made of a specified portion of any installation or maintenance charges provided for in the agreement.) To achieve uniformity in other forms of credit transaction, retailers are therefore requested to take a similar cash deposit in respect of all controlled goods supplied on credit.

5 Since this deposit must (under hire purchase, conditional sale or credit sale agreements) and should (in respect of any other credit transaction) be paid in cash, the Department's view is that:

1 trading checks and vouchers should not be accepted for deposit on controlled goods;
2 the use of a blank credit card should not be used to pay a deposit on controlled goods.

(The Department considers that the use of a trading check or

* Defined in the Order as 'a credit sale agreement under which the property in all the goods passes unconditionally to the buyer on or before delivery of the goods to him and which provides for the whole of the purchase price, or where part of that price is to be paid before the agreement is entered into, the balance, to be paid either by approximately equal instalments at equal intervals spread over a period of less than nine months commencing with the date of the agreement or by one payment to be made within the period of three months commencing with the date of the agreement.'

TABLE 1 Extracts from the Hire-Purchase and Credit Sale Agreements (Control) Order 1973

Part 1 : Goods to which this Order applies

	Minimum percentage of cash price (%)	Maximum period for payment of balance (months)
1 Radio receiving sets and television receiving sets (including portable sets and sets designed for use in road vehicles), whether or not assembled and whether or not complete, and parts thereof; television aerials, cathode ray tubes and loud speakers	33⅓	24
2 Gramophones, radio-gramophones, record players, tape recorders and parts thereof	33⅓	24
3 Space heating installations and appliances of a kind designed exclusively or mainly for domestic use, and parts thereof	33⅓	24
4 Appliances and apparatus of the following descriptions whether mechanically operated or not, being appliances or apparatus of a kind designed exclusively or mainly for domestic use, and parts thereof:		
Dish washers	33⅓	24
Drying cabinets and drying machines	33⅓	24
Washing machines and washers excluding washing machines and washers which are designed for heating water by electricity or gas but which are not otherwise designed for operation by electricity or gas	33⅓	24
Ironing machines and irons	33⅓	24
Floor polishers and floor scrubbers	33⅓	24
Vacuum cleaners	33⅓	24
Refrigerators and freezers having a storage capacity not exceeding 18 cubic feet	33⅓	24
Machines for mixing, extracting and preparation of food and drink	33⅓	24
Electric kettles and other cooking utensils incorporating heating elements, including electric hotplates	33⅓	24
Dry shavers, electrically operated	33⅓	24
Sewing machines	33⅓	24
Knitting machines	33⅓	24
Hair drying machines and electric hair rollers	33⅓	24
Electric blankets	33⅓	24
Electric generating plant	33⅓	24
Waste disposal units	33⅓	24
5 Lawnmowers and garden rollers and powered garden equipment	33⅓	24
6 Clocks and watches	33⅓	24
7 Floor coverings	33⅓	24
8 Sectional sheds and garages and other sectional or prefabricated buildings	33⅓	24
9 Trunks, bags and suitcases	33⅓	24

voucher or a bank credit card to pay a deposit may well be an infringement of the Order.)

6 Check trading organisations have been asked by the Government and have agreed to prohibit the issue of any check or voucher intended to be used as a deposit in respect of controlled goods and that when retailers refer customers to the check trader they will be asked to comply with the deposit requirements in respect of controlled goods.

7 As a further addition to ensuring equality of treatment check trading organisations have been asked to comply with the credit restrictions and have agreed:

1 to ensure that retailers do not advertise 'no deposit' checks or vouchers in their name; and
2 to withhold the distribution of any literature advertising 'no deposit' facilities.

The balance

8 The Control Order requires in respect of hire purchase, conditional sale and credit sale transactions (other than 'short-term credit sale' agreements) the payment of the balance (total price less deposit) over a limited period. To achieve uniformity in other forms of credit transaction, the Governor of the Bank of England has asked banks and finance houses offering loans or trading check facilities to adhere to the restrictions set out in the control orders when providing finance for controlled goods. The Government also wishes other organisations making personal loans or issuing checks or vouchers to comply with these restrictions and not to offer terms for personal loans for the purchase of controlled goods which are not in accordance with those set out in the control orders.

9 Further, checks and vouchers should only be accepted in relation to controlled goods in settlement of the balance due in accordance with the terms set out in the control orders after payment of the appropriate deposit in cash. To aid the acceptance of this, check trading organisations have been asked and have agreed to suspend the issue of checks or vouchers for any period in excess of 24 months until further notice.

Short term credit

10 As stated in paragraph 1 above, the Order (or the voluntary arrangements) do not regulate the deposit or repayment terms of 'short term credit sale agreements' but to avoid confusion, retailers are asked to make it clear when they are advertising 'no deposit' credit terms for such agreements that they relate to such agreements and not to longer term credit.

Option accounts, budget accounts and credit cards issued by retailers to be used for the purchase of goods in their shops

11 It is the Department's view that these involve credit sale trans-

TABLE 1—*continued*

	Minimum percentage of cash price (%)	Maximum period for payment of balance (months)
10 Jewellery and imitation jewellery	33⅓	24
11 Caravans and trailers	33⅓	24
12 Aircraft, including gliders	33⅓	24
13 Ships and boats	33⅓	24
14 Photographic cameras and photographic enlargers and lenses therefor, projectors and other photographic equipment not designed specifically for industrial, scientific or commercial use	33⅓	24
15 Binoculars, monoculars and telescopes	33⅓	24
16 Sink units and parts, baths, basins and bathroom fittings	33⅓	24
17 Furniture (including shop and office furniture and fittings, lamp standards, lamp shades and garden furniture) other than furniture of a specialised type unsuitable for domestic use	20	24
18 Mattresses and overlays	20	24
19 Mechanically propelled road vehicles having three or more wheels constructed or adapted primarily for the purpose of carrying persons whether or not they are also constructed or adapted for any purpose ancillary thereto, and parts thereof (including chassis): and mechanically propelled road vehicles constructed or adapted for the purpse of carrying goods having a weight unladen calculated in accordance with section 255 of the Road Traffic Act 1960(a) of less than 40 cwt. and having to the rear of the driver's seat roofed accommodation which is fitted with side windows or which is constructed or adapted for the fitting of side windows and parts thereof (including chassis)	33⅓	24
20 Goods to which this Order applies by virtue of Article 2 (1) (*b*), that is to say, goods of any description not specified in any other item in this Part comprised in a hire-purchase or credit sale agreement with goods of a description so specified	The lowest percentage set out in this column in relation to goods, described in any other item, comprised in the agreement	The longest period set out in this coumn in relation to goods, described in any other item, comprised in the agreement

(a) 1960 c. 16.

Finance for technology

The National Research Development Corporation provides financial and other support for technological developments of potential commercial importance. NRDC promotes the adoption by industry of new products and processes invented in government laboratories, universities and elsewhere. NRDC is participating in joint ventures with industry on an increasing scale. By supporting projects NRDC makes it possible for individual firms or groups of companies to undertake and accelerate the development and production of new products and processes of national importance. The corporation welcomes submissions in confidence from firms who have promising new projects to launch in any branch of industry or commerce. The conditions for its considering proposals of this kind are set out in a leaflet which may be obtained on application, either by writing to the National Research Development Corporation, PO Box 236, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET; or by telephoning 01-828 3400.

Part 2: Goods (being Goods included in a Description of Goods in Part 1 of this Schedule) to which this Order does not apply unless within Item 20 of that Part

1 Ambulances.

2 Invalid carriages.

3 Vehicles specially constructed or adapted for disabled people.

4 Hearses.

5 Mobile shops and mobile canteens.

6 Vehicles constructed or adapted for the carriage of not less than twelve persons.

7 Trailers rated by the manufacturers to have a maximum gross weight of not less than 40 cwt.

8 Any vehicle so constructed that a trailer may by partial superimposition be attached to it in such a manner as to cause a substantial part of the weight of the trailer to be borne by it.

9 Vehicles built to a specification designed to comply with the conditions of fitness laid down by the Assistant Commissioner for the purposes of the London Cab Order 1934(a).

10 Medical, surgical, dental and veterinary appliances, equipment and apparatus.

11 Seagoing ships constructed or adapted for the commercial transportation of goods or passengers, drill ships and pipe-laying barges, tugs and fishing vessels; and goods disposed of to any person as equipment for such a ship, tug, barge or vessel owned or chartered by him.

12 Helicopters.

13 Aircraft having a maximum total weight authorised exceeding 4,500 lb. In this item 'maximum total weight authorised' shall have the meaning assigned to it in Article 89 (1) of the Air Navigation Order 1972(b).

14 Caravans having either or both of the following dimensions:
an overal length (exluding any draw bar) exceeding 22 feet;
an overall width exceeding 7 feet 6 inches.
In this item 'overall length' and 'overall width' shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in Regulation 3 of the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1973(c).

(a) S.R. & O. 1934/1346 (Rev. XIV, p. 795; 1934 I, p. 1221).
(b) S.I. 1972/129 (1972 I, p. 366).
(c) S.I. 1973/24 (1973 I, p. 93).

TABLE 2 Extract from the Control of Hiring Order 1973

Part 1: Goods to which this Order applies

	Minimum hire period (weeks)
1 Radio receiving sets and television receiving sets (including portable sets and sets designed for use in road vehicles) whether or not assembled and whether or not complete; television aerials, cathode ray tubes and loud speakers	42
2 Gramophones, radio-gramophones, record players and tape recorders	42
3 Space heating installations and appliances of a kind designed exclusively or mainly for domestic use	42
4 Appliances and apparatus of the following descriptions whether mechanically operated or not, being appliances or apparatus of a kind designed exclusively or mainly for domestic use:	
Dish washers	42
Drying cabinets and drying machines	42
Washing machines and washers excluding washing machines and washers which are designed for heating water by electricity or gas but which are not otherwise designed for operation by electricity or gas	42
Ironing machines and irons	42
Floor polishers and floor scrubbers	42
Vacuum cleaners	42
Refrigerators and freezers having a storage capacity not exceeding 18 cubic feet	42
Machines for mixing, extracting and preparation of food and drink	42
Electric kettles and other cooking utensils incorporating heating elements, including electric hotplates	42
Dry shavers, electrically operated	42
Sewing machines	42
Knitting machines	42
Hair drying machines, and electric hair rollers	42
5 Photographic cameras and photographic enlargers and lenses therefor, projectors and other photographic equipment not designed specifically for industrial, scientific or commercial use	42
6 Mechanically propelled road vehicles having three or more wheels constructed or adapted primarily for the purpose of carrying persons whether or not they are also constructed or adapted for any purpose ancillary thereto, and parts thereof (including chassis); and mechanically propelled road vehicles constructed or adapted for the purpose of carrying goods having a weight unladen calculated in accordance with section 255 of the Road Traffic Act 1960(a) of less than 40 cwt. and having to the rear of the driver's seat roofed accommodation which is fitted with side windows or which is constructed or adapted for the fitting of side windows and parts thereof (including chassis)	42
7 Goods to which this Order applies by virtue of Article 2 (1) (*b*), that is to say, goods of any description not specified in any other item in this Part comprised in a hiring agreement with goods of a description so specified	The longest period set out in this column in relation to goods described in any other item, comprised in the agreement

(a) 1960, c. 16.

Part 2: Goods (being Goods included in a Description of Goods in Part 1 of this Schedule) to which this Order does not apply

1 Ambulances

2 Invalid carriages.

3 Vehicles specially constructed or adapted for disabled people.

4 Hearses.

5 Mobile shops and mobile canteens.

6 Vehicles constructed or adapted for the carriage of not less than 12 persons.

7 Any vehicles so constructed that a trailer may by partial superimposition be attached to it in such a manner as to cause a substantial part of the weight of the trailer to be borne by it.

8 Vehicles built to a specification designed to comply with the conditions of fitness laid down by the Assistant Commissioner for the purposes of the London Cab Order 1934(a).

action and are subject to all the terms and conditions of the Orders. In practice because of the way in which these forms of credit are operated they would not normally be able to comply with the terms of the Order and could not therefore be used for controlled goods, although in some circumstances budget accounts which revolved in less than nine months might fall within the definition of a 'short term credit sale agreement'.

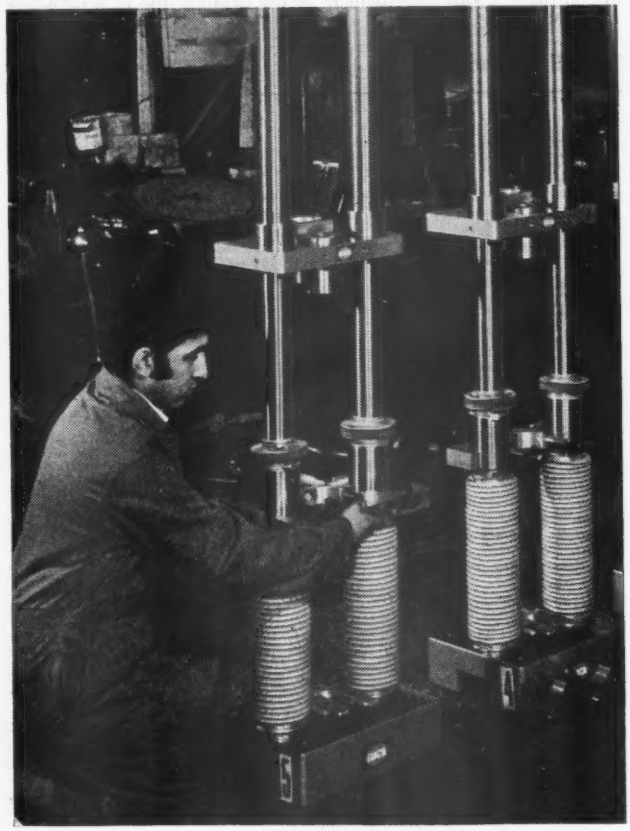
Credit cards issued by banks

12 When goods are being purchased by a credit card issued by a bank, no cash deposit need be taken but the issuing banks have, in response to a Government request, agreed to call under their credit card arrangements for a minimum repayment of 15 per cent of the outstanding balance or £6 per month whichever is the greater. (Cash drawing facilities have been reduced to £30.)

Hiring agreement

13 Because hiring is often regarded as an alternative to buying on credit similar restrictions are placed on hiring and the Control of Hiring Order 1973 (No. 2130) requires advance payment of the rentals payable for a specified minimum period for scheduled goods subject to hiring agreements and lays down certain other ancillary requirements. The goods concerned, all of which are subject to a minimum advance payment of the whole of the rentals and certain other specified charges payable during the first 42 weeks, are set out in Table 2 for reference.

14 It is the Department's view that credit cards, trading checks and vouchers should not be used for the payment of this minimum advance rental. This may well be an infringement of the Order.



Linear bearings used in connection with the sparking plug industry being checked at the factory of Coley-Rotolin Ltd., Solihull, Warwickshire. The company was represented among 20 British firms at the recent Tokyo Metrology and Tooling Exhibition at the British Export Marketing Centre in Tokyo. 'Our products had an excellent reception in Tokyo and many inquiries were received,' states export sales manager D. W. Harrison. The managing director, on his tour of the Far East, appointed agents in Japan and Hong Kong. The display at the Export Marketing Centre was a joint venture between BOTB and the British Gauge and Toolmakers Association.

European Purchasing Conference meets in London

Speaking at the opening of the European Purchasing Conference, held in London on 16-17 May, Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, referred to the fact that many of the matters concerning the Conference were outside local control and largely outside local determination. That was why he thought it right that the Conference saw its role in the broadest international world setting, and was particularly pleased at the establishment of the International Federation of Purchasing and of Material Management.

For the purchasing sector there had probably never been a more difficult time. 'We meet,' said Mr. Williams, 'against a background of world inflation on an unprecedented scale, and many of our countries face domestic inflation equally on an unprecedented scale. And it is no consolation to any one country to say well, difficult as it is for us, perhaps someone else is doing a little worse. I think we would all accept that inflation is a common scourge, is a common enemy and is an enemy that we must unitedly attempt to defeat and make sure that insofar as we possibly can avoid it, we in no way feed it's progress and development. Because of course inflation is not just a managerial inconvenience, it is not just a matter of the uncertainty that faces the housewife when she goes shopping each week. Eventually it finds itself reflected in national rates of growth, it finds itself reflected in national balance of payments and the danger therefore is that eventually it finds itself reflected in national trading policies and unless we are careful, there is a real risk that inflation could create national insularity at a time when we most need international co-operation and a common approach to the problems confronting us.'

Nevertheless, though inflation was worldwide, no country could afford to opt out at a domestic level. For inflation could be both imported and exported, and both politicians and managers therefore have a duty to ensure that inflationary increases, if avoidable, are avoided. Britain, said Mr. Williams, was particularly vulnerable to imported inflation, and, as a world exporter, could contribute to the further export of inflation unless the country's own domestic inflation was brought under control. And at a world level it was always the poorest countries which are hit hardest by uncontrolled inflation.

Alan Williams, Minister of State, Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, addressing the European Purchasing Conference.

Industrial policy by consent, says Tony Benn

In a speech at the Guildhall, on the evening of 17 May the Secretary of State for Industry, Tony Benn, said that earlier in the day he had had the first serious discussion with the CBI about how the development of industrial policy should be handled. From now on he expected that he and the CBI would meet more often. 'I am convinced,' he said, 'that any industrial policy requires a wide measure of consent if it is to succeed. Our policy will work only if those upon whose co-operation its success depends want it to work. I have invited the CBI to give their view on the problems that Britain has to face now, against a background of nearly 30 years of experience of very different policies, none of which have been entirely successful.

'Britain's problems of investment, of the special difficulties of certain industries and of the persistent imbalance in regional employment are well known. So too are the chronic balance of payments difficulties that we have faced since the war, even before the oil deficit was added. There is no reason why in this diagnosis we should not find common ground.

'Everyone is aware that things have gone wrong and that we need a fresh start. It is when we come to the proposals that we would expect the Debate to begin in earnest. The Government intend to put their proposals forward for public discussion. I hope the CBI and others will publish their proposals as the TUC have already done through their policy statements. I also hope these discussions will be conducted as openly as possible. Secrecy breeds unnecessary suspicion; moreover the public is entitled to know what is going on in an area of policy that concerns everyone.'

'Raw materials' under the amended Price Code

The Price Commission has announced that it will regard materials in the list below as 'raw materials' for the purposes of the new paragraph 26B of the amended Price Code, which limits the frequency of price increases. The list is for guidance only.

Paragraph 26B is relevant only to the timing of price increases: it does not affect what costs are 'allowable costs' for the purposes of calculating price increases under the Code. The fact that a particular material does not qualify as a 'raw material' may mean that in certain circumstances the enterprise will have to wait rather longer before it puts up its price; but it does not prevent the inclusion of any increase in the cost of such a material in calculating the amount of the price increase.

Non-food materials

Metalliferous ores and concentrates
Precious metals, including silver for processing
Non-ferrous metals, including bars, rods, wire, foil, etc.; including mercury and scrap metal
Ferro-alloys
Pig iron
Ingots, blooms, billets, slabs, coils for rerolling and wire rods of steel
Iron and steel scrap
Pyrites, sulphur, magnesite, china clay and other non-metalliferous minerals, including sand, crude and natural fertilisers and coal for carbonising
Softwood and hardwood, including sawn wood and pulp wood
Plywood, veneers, particle board and cork
Woodpulp and similar materials
Paper waste and old paper
Paper and paperboard, including newsprint
Raw cotton and cotton linters, cotton rags and yarn; including waste
Raw jute, flax, sisal, and other vegetable textile fibres, yarns and thread; including waste
Raw silk, sheep and lamb's wool and other animal hair, tops and yarn; including waste
Staple fibres, spun man-made fibre and continuous filament yarns
Essential oils, perfume and flavour materials, including synthetic materials
Natural rubber; scrap and waste
Non-edible seeds and oils and other crude vegetable materials; including wood rosin and shellac; industrial starch
Hides and skin and leather
Tallow, oils, bristles, casein, crushed bone and other crude animal materials
Crude mineral oil, lubricating oils and greases and paraffin wax
Organic and inorganic chemicals and other general chemicals as covered by MLH 271 of the Standard Industrial Classification

Food materials

Wheat, rice, barley, maize, and other cereals
Meal and flour of wheat and other cereals, and by-products
Livestock and carcass meat, including offals
Bacon and ham
Poultry, including live poultry
Eggs, including eggs not in shells
Milk, cream, butter, cheese and honey, including skimmed milk and curd
Fish, including crustacea and molluscs, fresh, chilled, frozen or preserved
Sugar and molasses, including sugar beet
Fruit, nuts and vegetables, fresh, dried or frozen
Tea
Coffee and cocoa, including beans, whether or not roasted
Tapioca and sago

(continued on next page)

Oilseeds, oils and oilcake, meal and other residues
Cocoa butter
Spices
Other crude vegetable products
Meat and fish meal.

Eagle Star/Sunley/ Grovewood merger

The merger between Eagle Star Insurance Company Ltd., Bernard Sunley Investment Trust Ltd., and Grovewood Securities Ltd. is to proceed, Alan Williams, Minister of State, Department of Prices and Consumer Protection said on 14 May. In a written answer in the House of Commons to Mr. Ted Graham (Enfield, Edmonton), asking whether the report had been received, he replied:

'Yes. My Rt. Hon. Friend received the report on 1 May.

'The Commission have found that the proposed merger is not likely to have any adverse effects on the interests of policy holders, on employment, on competition, on the manner in which the activities of the three companies would be conducted, or on any other matter affecting the public interest.

'My Rt. Hon. Friend will be laying the report before Parliament and publishing it as soon as possible.'

Boots/House of Fraser merger refused

The merger between the Boots Company Ltd. and House of Fraser Ltd. is not to be permitted, Alan Williams, Minister of State, Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, said on 17 May. In a written reply in the House of Commons to Mr. Ted Graham (Enfield, Edmonton), he said:

'Yes. My Rt. Hon. friend received the report on 14 May.

'The Commission have concluded that the merger might be expected to operate against the public interest in that it would lead to a less efficient use of resources than would otherwise obtain. The Commission were unable to recommend any action which would prevent this adverse effect and, accordingly, recommended that the merger should not be permitted.

'My Rt. Hon. friend accepts the Commission's conclusion and recommendation. The Director-General of Fair Trading is being asked to consult the relevant parties with a view to obtaining from them undertakings that they will not proceed with the merger.'

Boots announced on 6 November 1973 that negotiations had been completed for a merger with House of Fraser, to be accomplished by Boots' offering to purchase Fraser's ordinary shares for a consideration combining cash, Boots' ordinary shares and Boots' convertible loan stock.

John Methven seeks new laws against delays in supplying goods to consumers

New moves on two fronts to combat trading practices which may adversely affect the economic interests of consumers were announced on 16 May by John Methven, Director General of Fair Trading.

He is:

1 putting proposals to the Consumer Protection Advisory Committee (CPAC) for controls on the taking of payments by mail order traders and shops on goods for supply at a later date.
2 writing to certain local authorities and consumer organisations asking them for information about six trading practices so that he can assess whether any of them are working to the detriment of consumers.

The new proposals

In his reference to the CPAC – his second since the Office of Fair Trading opened last November – John Methven is putting forward proposals to control by ministerial Order the situation in which consumers are asked to make pre-payments when ordering goods without having any specific assurances about delivery dates.

The trading practices are defined as:

(a) seeking to induce consumers to enter into mail order transactions on terms whereby a payment is to be made before the goods are sent without undertaking to send the goods or return the money within a specified period;

(b) seeking to induce consumers to enter into mail order transactions on terms whereby a payment is to be made before the goods are sent without . . .

(i) identifying the seller; or
(ii) indicating his place of business.

(c) taking payments from consumers, whether by way of deposit or otherwise, in connection with the purchase (other than through a mail order transaction) of goods for future supply without undertaking to supply the goods within a specified time or return the money.

John Methven considers that these practices adversely affect consumers' economic interests and he has therefore referred them to the CPAC under Part II of the Fair Trading Act 1973 together with his proposals for protecting consumers.

He has suggested it should be a criminal offence to advertise mail order goods for which money must be sent in advance without stating in the advertisement what the despatch period was to be. The intention was to protect consumers who responded to postal bargain advertisements. He said it would also become an offence for mail order firms not to refund the consumer's money within seven days of the end of the stated despatch period if the goods ordered had not been sent. He had also proposed that the name and business address of the advertiser should be stated in the advertisement.

Mr. Methven said he had also proposed that shopkeepers and other traders who took £10 or more by way of deposit or advance payment for goods for supply at a later date must agree to refund the money on request if the goods were not supplied by the promised date. He did not intend that the proposal should preclude the extension of the delivery period by agreement.

Information sought

A letter from the Office of Fair Trading went out on 16 May to certain local authorities, the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux and consumer organisations asking for information about six trading practices so that Mr. Methven can assess their effects on consumers. The letter briefly describes each practice and the type of information being sought.

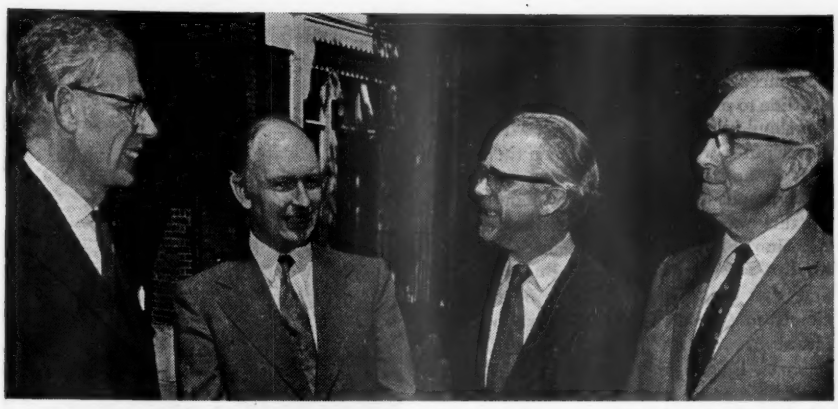
The six practices are:

1 **Passing off business sales as private sales** – usually carried on by means of advertisements in the classified columns of newspapers, which, by failing to mention that the seller is a trader, give the impression that the goods are being offered by a private seller.
2 **Misleading price information** – either failure to make it sufficiently clear that an advertised price excludes VAT, or failure to make it sufficiently clear that an advertised price excludes certain other charges which are, in fact unavoidable if a purchase is made – eg a service charge, a delivery charge, or the price of certain 'extras' which are not optional.
3 **Price comparisons** – indications that the selling price is less than some other prices or some notional worth or value, or that the consumer will 'save', or receive a 'discount'. Typical examples are comparisons with manufacturers' recommended prices and the advertisement which says, 'Worth £55 – our price £40'.
4 **Party Plan selling** – selling goods to groups of housewives who have been invited to a coffee party or similar event in a private house.
5 **Doorstep selling** – attempts (other than Party Plan selling) to sell goods and services to consumers in their own homes, with or without invitation.
6 **One day sales** – trading by persons who hire a hall or similar premises for short periods, often of one day, for the purposes of selling carpets or other consumer goods.

John Methven commented on 16 May: 'The fact that my Office is asking for information – including local authorities' own assessments and letters they have received from consumers – does not necessarily imply that, at this stage, we consider all these practices are affecting consumers' economic interests adversely. This is part of the information-gathering activity of my Office so that we can assess whether action is needed.'

Second reference to CPAC

The CPAC – an independent committee appointed by the Government – has three months from the date of Reference in which



Alan Williams, Minister of State, and senior officials of the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, visited the British Standards Institute conference centre at Hampden House, Mayfair, last week. The picture shows (from the left) Bob Feilden, director-general, BSI; Mr. Williams; Kenneth Clucas, Permanent Secretary, Department of Prices and Consumer Protection; and Sir Frederick Warner, chairman, BSI.

to consider Mr. Methven's proposals and can receive representations from persons who have a substantial interest in the subjects under consideration.

If the CPAC reports to Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, that they consider the practices adversely affect consumers' economic interests – by, for example, leading to inequitable transactions – and agree with Mr. Methven's proposals, either as submitted to them or in a modified form, Mrs. Williams can place a suitable draft Order before Parliament for approval. If the draft is approved and Mrs. Williams makes an Order, its enforcement will be the responsibility of the Trading Standards Departments of local authorities.

The penalties for contravening an Order are, in a magistrates' court, a fine of up to £400, or in a higher court, an unlimited fine or up to two years' imprisonment or both.

The full text of the Reference is being published in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast *Gazettes*. Copies of the dossier which accompanies the Reference can be seen by the public at the Office of Fair Trading in London and Edinburgh, the Ministry of Commerce in Belfast, and Regional Offices of the Department of Industry.

A limited number of dossiers will also be on sale (price 50p). Inquiries about the purchase of dossiers should be made to Mrs. Joan Warwick, Consumer Affairs Division, Office of Fair Trading, New Court, Carey Street, London WC2A 1SP (Tel: 01-242 2833, ext. 43).

Information sought

Concerning misleading price information, the Government are already seeking price marking powers in the Prices Bill, but these are intended primarily to secure the provision of price information in relation to particular classes of goods rather than to tackle misleading practices of general application.

Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided on the information at present before her, not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

1 Slater Walker Securities Ltd. and Slater Walker Investment Ltd.
2 Reed International Ltd. and NV Koninklijke Sphinx.

Gregor MacKenzie emphasises importance of smaller firms to Scottish economy

Small firms are specially important to the Scottish economy – and nearly 90 per cent of all manufacturing establishments in Scotland employ less than 250 people. Gregor MacKenzie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Industry said this on 8 May in Glasgow. He was at a seminar on the role of Smaller Firms organised by the Scottish Business School in conjunction with the Office for Scotland of the Departments of Trade and Industry.

Mr. MacKenzie, whose special responsibility is Small Firms, told the seminar: 'It is right to ask – Why worry about the smaller firm? If the trend is towards bigger economic units, ought we in Scotland simply not to accept the inevitable? There are four reasons why we should not do this.

'Firstly, smaller firms make up a major part of the Scottish economy. In Scotland the smaller firms are especially important in a number of industries of key importance to the Scottish economy – such as metal working, whisky distilling, leather goods, clothing, timber and furniture, glass cement, chemicals.

'Secondly, in Scotland there is a direct link between numbers employed and location of ownership. Four-fifths of all establishments with fewer than 100 employees are controlled from Scotland, compared with about one-fifth of establishments with more than 5,000 employees. We in Scotland welcome all large establishments which make a valuable contribution to the Scottish economy whatever their ownership. But at the same time we cannot ignore the fact that any trend to larger units which leads to loss of control inevitably means that the decision-making centres are lost to Scotland and that this can have an adverse effect on job opportunities, job satisfaction and income.'

Mr. MacKenzie added: 'A vigorous small firm sector seems one way to me of ensuring that we retain entrepreneurial talent in Scotland.

'Thirdly, I believe that smaller firms are important in ensuring a well-balanced and a smoothly functioning economy. The smaller firm has a flexibility which is often denied to the larger unit. This is true in personal services – in the retail trade and in catering. it is also true in an industrial sense – smaller firms can provide a specialised service at short notice and with minimum fuss. Smaller firms often complement the activities of larger firms, by providing sub-contracting services which allow the large firms to avoid wasteful investment.'

'Fourthly, by their flexibility and absence of bureaucracy, the smaller firm is often able to recognise and take advantage of market opportunities more quickly than is possible for larger companies and in so doing is able to play a valuable part in product innovation,' he said.

'Some people have, of course, sought to blame the problems of areas such as West Central Scotland on the existence of too many small firms. It is said that we are too heavily dependent on small firms and that the loss of economies of scale and small resources to finance investment or to withstand a reduced demand for their products means that this area performs less efficiently than other parts of the country. I would not want to debate this argument here. but I must point out that West Central Scotland is only marginally more dependent on small plants than the UK as a whole, when industrial structure is taken into account.'

Mr. MacKenzie said: I suspect, however, that we need to be thinking of quality rather than quantity, and here one has no statistical data and has to rely instead on subjective impressions. The Scottish economy has over the years had to undergo major structural changes and many smaller firms have been under a variety of pressures. Traditional customers have disappeared, and the improvement in communications, while bringing many benefits, has also meant that local markets are now accessible to competitors from further afield. Many firms have responded to these changing circumstances. but must we not in all honesty say that we still have too many small firms in Scotland where management puts cosiness before competitiveness and is content to bump along the bottom with minimum profit and minimum re-investment?

'On the other hand, I see some very promising signs of enterpreneurship among smaller Scottish firms, especially in relation to North Sea oil. My office here in Glasgow

has identified over 200 manufacturing companies in Scotland which are supplying offshore markets, and of these two-thirds employ less than 200 people. What is also interesting is that half of these firms are in West Central Scotland, the area which is so often criticised for lack of enterprise. The prospects which offshore oil offers for smaller firms is a subject on its own, but I would only say that there is hard evidence that the market is a good one for small firms and that there is great potential for more involvement.'

Referring to what the Government was doing to help he said, 'I do not think that anyone here today would dispute that what this Government – what any Government – can do to help smaller (and larger) firms is to create a thriving economy and a strong industrial base. Of course we recognise that this can only be achieved if firms are profitable and have confidence to invest in the future.

'As I go around the country and talk to industrialists, I find that there are serious misconceptions about the Government's attitude to private enterprise and profits. Why this should be so, I do not know: Mr. Harold Lever put it well in the debate on the Budget – 'It is, and has been said of every Labour Government since 1945 that to them "profit" is a dirty word. If so I must point out that my Rt. Hon. Friend (the Chancellor) had it on his lips several times in the Budget speech and that his taxation arrangements relate closely to the success of that dirty word in industry . . .' As an illustration of Mr. Lever's remarks, I would remind you that the recent Budget proposed retention of small companies relief on Corporation Tax – namely, a lower rate of 42 per cent (as opposed to 52 per cent) for companies with profits under £15,000 and marginal relief for companies with profits between £15,000 and £25,000.

'At the same time, the Government has come to office faced with daunting economic problems, not least the problem of inflation and both in our taxation policy and in our attitude to prices and profits we have to have foremost in our minds the need to reduce the pace of inflation and to establish a climate beneficial to industrial expansion and development,' Mr. MacKenzie said.

Gregor MacKenzie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry, pictured with his wife, meeting staff at the opening day of the London Small Firms Information Centre. Situated at 65 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1, the centre will operate largely by telephone. By ringing Freefone 2079, information will be available to businessmen in London and the South Eastern Region.

New publications to help the small business

A number of new publications intended specifically to help owners or prospective owners of small businesses has been commissioned by the Department of Industry. These are issued as part of the free service given by the Small Firms Information Centres which are located in major towns and cities throughout Britain.

The following are now available.

Starting a retail business deals generally with various types of retail businesses; how to find and buy a business; financial pitfalls and safeguards; and organisations which can offer specialist advice. It was written by Phillip Snadden who has been a retailer all his business life. He has started several groups of shops from scratch and has been managing director of two national multiple small shop groups. He became a consultant in 1967.

Obtaining a franchise has been prepared by Mr. M. Mendelsohn, a practising solicitor with extensive experience in the field of franchising and author of *The Guide to Franchising*. He discusses types of franchise, their advantages and disadvantages, and methods of payment. A valuable check-list of questions a potential franchisee should ask is included.

Entering the hotel and catering industry stresses the importance of location, indicates legal requirements and gives an outline of what to look for before taking a decision. A list of helpful organisations is given from which advice and training can be obtained. It has been written by Miles Quest, who has more than 20 years connection with the hotel and catering industry. For the past six years he has been editor of *Catering Times*.

Marketing is by Geoff Wood, director of the Sheffield Polytechnic's Centre for Innovation and Productivity, who had wide experience as a factory manager and in selling and 15 years as a management consultant before taking up his present position. He stresses the importance to small firms of taking a broader view of selling and of asking 'What do customers want to buy, now and in the future'. New ways of taking a look at customer requirements are suggested.

Raising finance deals with the means open to small businesses of raising finance for various purposes. The financial organisations most appropriate for the small firms sector are also studied. The author Mr. D. J. Darby, after many years experience in banking, became in 1966 senior lecturer at the School of Business Studies of the City of London Polytechnic.

The first booklet in the series *Starting in Business*, is already available. It is intended to help the prospective businessmen to decide on the best choice of a business, to outline some of the common pitfalls and to suggest sources of assistance and advice available. The author is D. S. Watkins, Research Fellow of the Manchester Business School.

Trade Union Adviser appointed

Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, has appointed Ken Griffin, OBE, as his Trade Union Adviser. Mr. Griffin, who is 43, is on secondment from the Electrical, Electronics and Telecommunications Union – Plumbing Trade Union.

From July 1972 Mr. Griffin was the Co-ordinator of Industrial Advisers at the Department of Trade and Industry.

Lord Beswick, Minister of State, Department of Industry, peers through a powerful microscope in examining a blade of a Spey aero-engine, part of the extensive tests carried out by Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd. Looking on is H. H. Malley, general manager, Test Facilities Group, of the company's Derby Engine Division. Lord Beswick, a former airline pilot, has ministerial responsibilities for the aircraft manufacturing industry. Another of his recent visits has been to Short Brothers and Harlands at Belfast, when he was accompanied by Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Industry.

Gregor MacKenzie opens Commonwealth Postal Conference

Belief in the contribution to be made by the Commonwealth to the solution of many contemporary world problems was expressed on 14 May by Gregor MacKenzie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Industry, when opening an informal conference of Commonwealth Postal Administrations at Marlborough House, London.

This preliminary three-day meeting of delegates preceded the Centenary Congress of the Universal Postal Union in Lausanne from 22 May-5 July.

Welcoming representaives to London, the Minister said the Government had laid particular stress on its intention to foster links with the Commonwealth. There were at least two reasons why he believed they had a real contribution to make in the solving of world problems:

'First the Commonwealth includes among its membership a wide diversity of peoples at differing stages of economic and social development and with differing geographical and historical backgrounds. It can thus by frank and informal discussions between members promote an understanding of different points of view which can only be of benefit to the world at large. Second, in the sphere of functional co-operation the Commonwealth has developed a whole range of practical and professional contacts which enable the richness of its experiences to be put to constructive use.

'This meeting of Commonwealth delegates to the Centenary Congress of the UPU is an example of Commonwealth co-operation in a field which perhaps attracts little glory but is nonetheless of great value to all the nations represented here.'

The delegates had met to exchange views on the major issues to arise at the UPU Congress. Their broad objectives were similar but inevitably there must be differences of opinion as to how these objectives were to be achieved. The flexibility of the distinctive Commonwealth approach meant however, that their deliberations would above all be marked by harmony, resting in great part in personal relationships and compounded by that special feeling which was the hallmark of all Commonwealth exchanges. Many of the delegates had attended the previous Commonwealth conference in London in 1971.

Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, held a reception for the Commonwealth delegates at Marlborough House on 14 May, which Gregor MacKenzie also attended.

Commonwealth countries represented at the Conference were:

Australia	Mauritius
Bahamas	Nauru
Bangladesh	New Zealand
Barbados	Nigeria
Botswana	Sierra Leone
Canada	Sri Lanka
Fiji	Swaziland
Ghana	Tanzania
Jamaica	Tonga
Kenya	Trinidad and Tobago
Lesotho	Uganda
Malawi	Zambia
Malaysia	

The British delegation, consisting of Department of Industry, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Post Office representatives, was headed by Sir Frank Wood, KBE, CB. The Hong Kong and Jersey postal administrations are attached to the British delegation.

The Universal Postal Union, founded in 1874 as the General Postal Union and renamed in 1878, has been a specialised agency of the United Nations since 1947.

Congress normally meets every five years for the purpose of revising the Acts of the Union, a different member country acting as host on each occasion.

Michael Meacher, joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Industry, pictured at the Laboratory of the Government Chemist in Stamford Street, London. The Government Chemist, Dr. H. Egan (left), accompanied the Minister on a tour of the establishment.

East-West contacts in the field of industrial measurement and control were strengthened when the Sira Institute was host last week at the 1974 Imeko council meeting. The picture shows (from the left) Mr. Szukalski, of Poland; Mr. W. D. H. Gregson, of Ferranti (Scotland) Ltd., chairman, MCAC; Mr. S. S. Carlisle, managing director, Sira Institute, and president, Imeko; Dr. Otto Winkler, of East Germany, treasurer, Imeko; and Dr. E. N. Eden, head of Standards, Weights, Measures Division, Department of Prices and Consumer Protection.

Biggest offshore platform to be built in Scotland

Commenting on an announcement by Shell UK Exploration Production Ltd. of the placing of a £65 million order for two North Sea production platforms, Dr. Gavin Strang, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Energy said:

'I am very pleased that the biggest offshore platform yet to be ordered – worth more than £35 million – is to be built at the McAlpine site at Ardyne Point on the Firth of Clyde. This site is providing jobs in an area where they are needed.

'I very much welcome the opportunities which will be created for Scottish and British firms to manufacture the modules and engineering equipment which constitute a large part of the total value of the platform.

'I hope Scottish and British industry will take on board the colossal opportunity which exists for them to supply materials and services for the offshore operators.

'In present circumstances we cannot expect every platform for the British sector of the North Sea to be fabricated in Scotland but the Government wants many more platforms built by British industry.'

Official Receivers' offices

Official Receivers are responsible for the administration of cases in bankruptcy and compulsory liquidation. Inquiries should be addressed to the nearest Official Receiver

High Court of Justice
Senior Official Receiver: A. T. Cheek

Bankruptcy
Thomas More Building, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2JY (Tel: 01-405 7641)
Official Receivers: R. B. Howard; J. Tye

Companies Winding-up
Inveresk House, 346 Strand, London WC2R 0HJ (Tel: 01-836 7733)
Official Receivers: L. R. Bates; N. Saddler; D. A. Williams

Birmingham
Commercial Union House, Martineau Square, Birmingham B2 4UP (Tel: 021-236 8831/7)
A. D. Gwyther; J. F. Hirst

Bournemouth
Burlington Arcade, Bournemouth BH1 2JS (Tel: 0202-28208/9)
A. H. Horler

Bradford
West Riding House, Cheapside, Bradford BD1 4LJ (Tel: 0274-33651/2)
V. Duffy

Brighton
Windsor House (East Entrance), 30-35 Edward Street, Brighton BN2 2JZ (Tel: 0273-64301/2)
J. F. O'Reilly

Bristol
Sun Alliance House, 4 Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4BN (Tel: 0272-290268)
D. S. Clackett

Cambridge
49 Bateman Street, Cambridge CB2 1LT (Tel: 0223-53930 and 59646)
R. F. Savage

Canterbury
Lombard House, 12-17 Upper Bridge Street, Canterbury (Tel: 0227-62070 and 65037)
A. R. Haigh

Cardiff
9th Floor, 24/26 Newport Road, Cardiff CF2 1SH (Tel: 0222-30575)
B. J. Longley

Chester
Dee Hills Park, Chester CH3 5AR (Tel: 0244-21471/2)
K. Matthewson

Croydon
Park House, 22 Park Street, Croydon CR9 1TX (Tel: 01-686 4961)
R. A. D. Copper

Exeter
Eastgate House, High Street, Exeter EX4 3JU (Tel: 0392-55445)
A. J. Seldon

Gloucester
Grosvenor House, Station Road, Gloucester GL1 1ST (Tel: 0452-21658/9)
H. W. Kirkwood

Hull
Beverley House, St. Stephen's Square, Hull HU1 3XF (Tel: 0482-23720 and 23729)
J. E. Friend

Ipswich
St. Clare House, Greyfriars, Ipswich IP1 1LX (Tel: 0473-56731)
T. A. Tuck

Leeds
Pearl Chambers, East Parade, Leeds LS1 5BX (Tel: 0532-28011/2)
W. A. Bishop

Leicester
Prospect House, 94 Regent Road, Leicester LE1 7DE (Tel: 0533-22251/3)
H. Roach

Liverpool
West Africa House, 25 Water Street, Liverpool L2 0RQ (Tel: 051-236 8397/8)
R. W. F. Pagan

Manchester
Townbury House, 11 Blackfriars Street, Salford M3 5AB (Tel: 061-832 2471)
K. A. Miller; A. N. Percy

Newcastle upon Tyne
3rd Floor, 4 St. Nicholas Buildings, St. Nicholas Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1RF (Tel: 0632-21104/5)
F. Durkin

Northampton
6 Cheyne Walk, Northampton NN1 5QA (Tel: 0604-37288/9)
R. F. Savage

Norwich
Davey House, Castle Meadow, Norwich NOR O2D (Tel: 0603-28983/4)
T. A. Tuck

Nottingham
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W. W. Jordan

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63 New George Street, Plymouth PL1 1RD (Tel: 0752-68554)
A. J. Seldon

Reading
PO Box No. 40, Somerset House, 3 Blagrave Street, Reading RG1 1QE (Tel: 0734-581931/5)
R. G. Goddard

Rochester
Gordon House, Star Hill, Rochester (Tel: 0634-42603 and 46906)
A. R. Haigh

St. Annes
Petros House, St. Andrews Road North, Lytham St. Annes FY8 2JD (Tel: 039-15-21271)
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T. Wilks

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A. H. Horler

Southend
2nd Floor, Colman House, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea SS2 6EF (Tel: 0702-41316/7)
F. L. Sage

Stockton
4 Bridge Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Teesside TS18 3BP (Tel: 0642-65598/9)
F. Durkin

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A. K. Sales

Swansea
5th Floor, Sun Alliance Building, 166/167 Helens Road, Swansea SA1 5DL (Tel: 0792-42861)
P. W. Nunn

Watford
40 Clarendon Road, Watford WD1 1HJ (Tel: 0923-44288)
F. L. Sage

£12m Terylene plant for Teesside

ICI is to invest £12 million in a major expansion of its Terylene manufacturing capacity in the UK. New plant to make a further 22,000 tonnes of Terylene staple fibre annually for use in apparel and household textiles is to be installed at Wilton on Teesside. It will increase ICI Fibres' capacity for Terylene stable fibre by nearly 50 per cent.

The project is ICI's largest single capital investment in fibres for more than five years and is part of the programme of continuing expansion. It is in addition to the increase of 10,000 tonnes of Terylene staple fibre at Wilton, announced last May, which will become available during the second half of this year.

Work is starting immediately on the new plant. It is scheduled to start production in mid-1976 and to build up to full production during the following year. It will employ about 120 people.

The plant will incorporate the most up-to-date technology, drawing on the fund of expertise available from the world-wide resources of the ICI group. With an interest in nearly one-tenth of the world's total production of synthetic fibres, ICI is second biggest in the world league.

A streamlined submersible craft, the DTV2, developed by Cooke Bros. (Marine Projects) Ltd., Plymouth, for use in underwater photography, wide area searches, pipeline inspection and biological and archaeological research. It is designed to carry two divers to work underwater, complete with equipment and a workshop – and to provide a support system which enables them to operate efficiently for many hours with a high degree of independence from surface vessels. DTV2 has side-by-side seating with dual controls and forward and downward windows. The craft will rest on the sea bed while the crew leave to carry out their work, or may be kept hovering above the bottom.

Five hundred new jobs for Gelligaer

John Morris, Secretary of State for Wales, announced on 10 May that the Department of Industry are to construct a new factory for Delanair Ltd. of Barking, Essex, on the Penallta Industrial Estate, Gelligaer.

Delanair Ltd., a member of the Lindustries Group of Companies, are one of Europe's leading manufacturers of vehicle heaters and air conditioning systems. Their products are installed in Chrysler, Ford, Jaguar and other British cars and in the cabs of commercial vehicles for the home and export markets. Demand for these items has increased to such an extent that a new manufacturing facility will be required in addition to the company's existing premises at Barking and Ammanford. A second site in South Wales was selected because of the company's favourable experience with labour recruitment at Ammanford and the range of selective assistance available from the Department of Industry.

The new factory, which will be purpose-built by the Welsh Industrial Estates Corporation, will be of 50,000 sq. ft., on a site with room for further expansion. Jobs for about 300 local people, of whom 150 will be men will be created by 1976. It is hoped that 500 jobs (250 for men) will be available after five years of operations.

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under Section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the dates specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
8 May 1974		
1,003,268	County Commercial Cars Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to articulated motor vehicles
1,005,000	Ciments Lafarge	Process for the continuous treatment of minerals and apparatus therefor
1,045,697	Creed and Co. Ltd.	Improvements in line feeding devices for printing apparatus
1,206,955	Coal Industry (Patents) Ltd.	Mining machines
1,215 203	Potter Instrument Co. Ltd.	Improvements relating to motor control systems for tape decks
1,215,204	Potter Instrument Co. Ltd.	Improvements in motor control systems of magnetic tape transports
1,215,205	Potter Instrument Co. Ltd.	Improvements in motor control systems of magnetic tape transports
1,223,366	Citroen SA	Improvements in/or relating to vehicle suspension
1,250,933	Creed and Co. Ltd.	Magnetic powder handling apparatus
1,307,566	International Standard Electric Corporation	Decoder for the high colour fidelity reproduction of a palencoded colour signal
1,307,959	International Standard Electric Corporation	Decoder for television signals
1,341,186	Shoe and Allied Trades Research Association	Improvements in shoe making
1,341,387	Institut National du Verre	Process and apparatus for coating articles

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above Patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patents Form No. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage
Comptroller

Government Publications in Wales

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 41 The Hayes, Cardiff, CF1 1JW

Parliament

Monday, 13 May

Trade with South Africa

Mr. Cyril Smith (Rochdale) asked if steps would be taken to cancel all future subsidies to trade missions from Great Britain planning to visit South Africa and to ensure that no subsidies are provided for trade fairs held in South Africa.

'The Government are reviewing many aspects of policy towards South Africa,' answered Mr. Deakins. 'Meanwhile, our policy on export promotion to South Africa remains unchanged.'

Imports of copper

Information was requested by Mr. Neil Kinnock (Bedwellty) on the quantity of copper imported from Chile and Zambia, respectively, in each year from 1969 to the latest available date; the total cost of these imports in each year; the average cost per ton this represented in each year; and the percentage rise in the price of Chilean and Zambian copper since 1969.

Mr. Deakins gave the following information for blister, other unrefined copper and unwrought refined copper excluding alloys:

	Chile			Zambia		
	Quantity (thousand tonnes)	Value (£ million cif)	Average value per tonne (£ cif)	Quantity (thousand tonnes)	Value (£ million cif)	Average value per tonne (£ cif)
1969	113	67	591	171	101	587
1970	98	58	593	155	95	613
1971	93	41	442	114	51	450
1972	68	29	420	128	54	421
1973	88	53	606	123	73	592

He explained: 'The information on prices is not available for imports from individual countries. The average values per tonne given above are not true prices as they are influenced by varying types of copper and changes in freight and insurance costs.'

Mr. Deakins was also asked by Mr. Michael Grylls (North-West Surrey) to state the value of British imports of copper from Chile in 1973; and the proportion of total British copper imports this represented.

'£53 million cif representing 18 per cent of total,' he answered.

EEC-Indian trade

Mr. Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe) asked if the Government intended to participate in the work of the European Community's Indian-European Commission during the period of renegotiation of the terms of the UK's membership of the European Community; and what proposals would be put to the Commission for the development of the Community's trading arrangements with India.

'Yes,' said Mr. Deakins. 'Her Majesty's Government is taking part in the work of the Joint Commission, with a view to strengthening trade links on the lines envisaged in the Commercial Co-operation Agreement, and in particular to improving access for Indian exports to Community markets.'

Import restrictions

Mr. Arthur Lewis (Newham, North-West) referred to the Italian import restriction policy and asked if a similar policy would be adopted for the UK.

'No. I do not think that is the right course for the UK to take.' Mr. Deakins replied.

Industry Bill

The Secretary of State for Industry was asked by Mr. John Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling) what consultations he is having with both sides of industry in the preparation of his Industry Bill.

Mr. Benn replied: 'The preparatory work is taking account of views expressed by trade unionists and industrialists. When the Government's proposals are published, there will be full consultation with all those concerned.'

National Enterprise Board

Mr. Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury) inquired about plans to set up a National Enterprise Board.

'The proposed Industry Bill will provide for the establishment of a National Enterprise Board,' said Mr. Heffer.

Nationalisation

A statement was asked for by Mr. Alexander Fletcher (Edinburgh, North) regarding the anticipated time scale of the Government's nationalisation plans.

'I shall be putting forward proposals for an extension of public ownership in due course,' said Mr. Benn.

Questions were asked by Mr. S. G. Thorne (Preston, South) and Mr. Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury) about intentions to bring the aircraft industry under public ownership.

Mr. Benn said: 'Yes Sir. Our intention to bring the aircraft industry into public ownership has been made clear but no decisions have yet been taken on the scope, method or timing.'

Mr. Anthony Grant (Harrow, Central) inquired about proposals for the public ownership of the shipbuilding industry.

'I shall submit our proposals to the House of Commons when they are ready,' said Mr. Benn.

Mr. Teddy Taylor (Glasgow, Cathcart) asked for a statement on the present position of the shipbuilding industry.

Mr. Benn said: 'The order book stands at more than 7 million tons.'

Workers' participation in industry

Mr. Cryer (Keighley) asked what plans there were for the democratisation of industry by means of workers' participation in decision making.

Mr. Heffer replied that one of the objects of the continuing discussions by the Secretary of State for Industry with trade unions and management was the wider sharing of decision making. 'This is an aspect of our more open style of Government,' he said. 'The Government's overall plans for advancing industrial democracy are for my Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Employment, and the Planning Agreements to be provided for under our industrial policy will play a significant part.'

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Anthony Wedgwood Benn
Ministers of State: Eric Heffer
Lord Beswick
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Gregor MacKenzie
Michael Meacher

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Peter Shore
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Eric Deakins
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Shirley Williams
Minister of State: Alan Williams
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Offshore oil

A list was asked for by Dr. J. Dickson Mabon (Greenock and Port Glasgow) of the specific measures undertaken to assist the shipbuilding industry to obtain orders connected with offshore oil.

Mr. Meacher answered that no specific assistance is given in respect of shipbuilding orders arising from offshore oil development, but builders of ships and mobile offshore installations benefit from shipbuilding construction grants and shipbuilders' relief and indirectly from the credit arrangements available for the purchase of new ships and installations.

Mechanical engineering industry

A Question was asked by Mr. John Biffen (Owestry) on the home and export order books and profitability of the mechanical engineering industry.

Mr. MacKenzie said: 'Home and export orders-on-hand last December were at record levels, 54 and 77 per cent higher by volume respectively than a year earlier. Profitability probably improved last year as engineering output expanded. Prospects remain favourable, especially for export sales, despite the set-back of the three-day week.'

Redundancy pay for steelworkers

Mr. James Tinn (Teesside, Redcar) asked when Statutory Instruments would be introduced to bring into operation the Steel Readaptation Convention between the United Kingdom and the EEC in order to enable the British Steel Corporation to pay improved benefits to redundant steelworkers.

'I hope to lay the necessary Regulations before the House early next month,' answered Mr. Benn.

EEC renegotiation

Mr. Neil Marten (Banbury) asked what representations had been received from British industry about the Government's policy on renegotiation of the Common Market agreement.

'I have received views from several representative bodies including trade unions and the CBI,' answered Mr. Benn.

Hovercraft industry

'What steps are proposed' asked Mr. R. C. Mitchell (Southampton, Itchen) 'to encourage the development of the British hovercraft industry?'

'All the usual sources of Governmental assistance are open to the industry; any proposals it cares to make will be carefully considered,' said Mr. MacKenzie.

Space development

Mr. Edward Bishop (Newark) asked Mr. Benn what recent discussions he had had regarding maritime navigation and communications satellites.

'None,' said Mr. Benn. 'The United Kingdom is contributing to the development of a European experimental maritime communications satellite (MAROTS), which is being undertaken by the European Space Research Organisation. In addition, United Kingdom officials are taking part in discussions under the aegis of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation on possible future arrangements for global maritime satellites.'

Mr. Bishop also inquired about plans for a UK contribution to the development of post-Apollo projects.

Mr. Benn replied that the United Kingdom already contributed 6.3 per cent towards the cost of the European development of a space laboratory for use with the US space shuttle and he had no plans for any other contributions to post-Apollo projects.

Motor industry

Questions were asked by Mr. Norman Lamont (Kingston-upon-Thames) on meetings with the management of British Leyland and by Mr. Hugh Dykes (Harrow, East) on discussions with representatives of the British motor vehicle manufacturers industry on the present state of the industry and future prospects.

Mr. Benn said: 'There are frequent meetings between Ministers and senior officials of my Department and representatives of the motor industry, including British Leyland, and I have myself recently met the President of the SMMT, British Leyland and General Motors.'

Subsidies to private industry

'How much has been paid in all forms of subsidy to private industry in the years 1970 to 1973? asked Mr. Dennis Skinner (Bolsover).

'About £3,000 million, in net terms, over the four years to March 1974,' answered Mr. MacKenzie.

Polystyrene shortage

Mr. Peter Hordern (Horsham and Crawley) referred to the shortage of polystyrene for use in industry in the UK; and asked if steps would be taken to allow the manufacturers of polystyrene to charge a price which would allow them sufficien t incentive to sell in the UK rather than abroad.

Mr. Meacher answered that the shortage of polystyrene was attributable to a number of causes including rising demand and plant breakdowns. The Price Commission had already allowed a number of manufacturers price increases for the material. It was understood that discussions between the Price Commission and the industry continued.

Steel scrap

Mr. John Mendelson (Penistone) asked what recent representations had been received on the position concerning the supply of scrap metal in the steel industry, particularly affecting the steel making areas of South Yorkshire; and Mr. Peter Hardy (Rother Valley) asked what was the latest position in regard to the supply of scrap to the British steel industry.

Mr. Heffer said: 'Private sector steelmakers have in general, been obtaining adequate supplies but I am aware that supplies of scrap to BSC have been falling well short of requirements in past weeks; there are particular shortages in the Sheffield area which have restricted production in BSC steelmaking plant there. The procurement of raw materials is the responsibility of the Corporation but I am advised that BSC is doing everything possible to improve scrap supplies, including a substantial increase in its purchase price.'

Concorde

Several Members asked Questions on the development of Concorde.

In reply Mr. Benn said: 'The Government is pressing ahead with its review of the project and discussions are continuing with all interested parties, including the workers at Filton which I visited on 20 March.

'In the meantime, the Government is supporting the manufacturers' efforts to put the aircraft into service at the earliest practicable date. Concorde and the TU 144 are at similar stages of development. Current work in the United States is confined to basic research into various aspects of supersonic design and travel.'

Merseyside

Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk) spoke of the serious unemployment situation on Merseyside and asked if Special Development Area status for the area would be considered.

'I am considering the case for upgrading Merseyside to SDA status and a statement will be made in due course,' replied Mr. Heffer.

Price of milk

Mr. Bates (Bebington and Ellesmere Port) asked for a list of the average available retail prices of milk for each month from January 1973 until the latest available date; and for the average Government subsidy for each month.

Mrs. Williams answered that the prescribed maximum price of a pint of pasteurised milk from January 1973 to 20 April 1974 was 5½p. Since April 1974 the maximum price has been 4½p.

Figures for the cost of subsidising milk are not available on a monthly basis. Payments to the Milk Marketing Boards in 1972/73 were £31 million. The provisional figure for 1973/74 was £103 million. Payments in 1974/75 were estimated at £260 million.

Mr. James Scott-Hopkins (West Derbyshire) asked for the latest total for 1974 of food subsidies already announced on dairy products; what extra consumption of UK produced dairy products was envisaged for 1974; and what measures were proposed to protect the consumer in the event of a shortfall in the autumn of 1974 of home produced products.

Mr. Maclennan replied: 'The estimated cost of subsidies on dairy products in 1974/75 is £333 million, comprising £260 million on milk, £43 million on butter and £30 million on cheese. It is not possible to make precise forecasts of changes in the consumption of dairy products during the remainder of 1974, but taking account of all the relevant factors I expect some increase in consumption of liquid milk and of home-produced cheese, and a decline in the consumption of home-produced butter. Measures to ensure adequate supplies of dairy products are a matter for my Rt. Hon. Friend the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, but I am of course keeping in close touch with him.'

Bread subsidy

Mr. Julian Ridsdale (Harwich) wanted to know the latest total for 1974 of food subsidies for the baking industry.

Mr. Maclennan said that the estimated cost of the consumer subsidy on bread in the current financial year was £47.5 million.

Steel drop forging industry

Mr. J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) asked what representation had been received from the steel drop forging industry concerning amendments to the Price Code.

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'I have received a substantial number of representations from the industry both directly from the National

Association of Drop Forgers and Stampers as well as from individual firms.

'These representations were taken into account in advising the safeguards incorporated in paragraph 26B of the Code.'

Supply of bricks

Mr. Stan Newens (Harlow) asked if the action taken by the London Brick Company in closing down the Whittlesea Central Brick Company, recently purchased from the National Coal Board, would be reported to the Monopolies Commission.

'The Commission are currently investigating the supply of bricks in Great Britain,' answered Mr. Williams. 'Any person may invite them to consider evidence on matters relating to their inquiry.'

Tuesday, 14 May

Cement prices

Mr. Grimond (Orkney and Shetland) inquired about steps to safeguard the Highlands and Islands of Scotland against the increased cost of cement due to the pricing system to be initiated by 15 May in default of Her Majesty's Government's intervention.

Mr. Maclennan replied: 'It is for the Price Commission to determine what price increases may be implemented by the cement manufacturers, consistently with the Price Code. The Commission have made it clear that no increase in a particular part of the country (including the Highlands and Islands of Scotland), may exceed the overall increase allowed to the company concerned.'

Recycling

Mr. Cranley Onslow (Woking) asked for an estimate of the quantity of motor tyres used in the UK annually; and how much of this is salvaged for recycling.

Mr. Benn said: 'A survey carried out last year by the Local Government Operational Research Unit found that approximately one-third of a million tons of tyres of all types (or approximately 150 million tyres at 150 to the ton) become available as arisings in the UK each year. Almost half of these arisings are recycled and further quantities are disposed of by export or by incineration to produce energy.'

Mr. Onslow also asked for the estimated volume and value of materials recovered by recycling from scrapped motor vehicles in the UK, in each of the past 10 years.

Mr. Meacher answered: 'My Department has made no detailed estimates but the Motor Vehicle Dismantlers' Association have estimated that ferrous and non-ferrous scrap and usable parts to a value of £200 million have been recycled over the past 10 years.'

Mr. David Mudd (Falmouth and Camborne) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would study legislation already enacted in other countries including Canada, on the recycling of plastics; and if he would consider introducing such legislation in the United Kingdom, both from the economic and environmental viewpoints.

Mr. Meacher replied: 'Legislation introduced or under consideration by certain overseas Governments including Governments of Provinces of Canada on the recycling of plastics will certainly be studied. It will be taken into account in the Government's current examination of activities in the whole recycling field.'

Food prices

Figures were asked for by Mr. David Marquand (Ashfield) showing which foodstuffs can now be imported more cheaply from EEC and non-EEC countries respectively; he also asked for an estimate of the difference between world prices and EEC prices in each case.

Mrs. Williams answered: 'Of the foods which can be obtained from both EEC and non-EEC sources, certain grades or varieties of wheat and apples are available from the EEC at lower prices than from non-EEC countries, while New Zealand butter, under our arrangements with the Community, is cheaper than that from other origins. Details are set out in the table below. Precise comparisons cannot however be made because of the wide differences in quality, grade and method of presentation in foodstuffs sold on the UK market.'

Wednesday, 15 May

Recycling waste materials

Would a research programme be initiated, asked Mr. David Mudd (Falmouth and Camborne) to obtain the necessary forecasts both of supplies of waste materials and anticipated recycling demands with a view to increasing the percentages of waste glass, rubber, plastics, metals and paper reprocessed in the national interest.

'Work has already started on such a programme, which is to be co-ordinated by my Department's Warren Spring Laboratory and will form part of their continuing work on recovery,' answered Mr. Benn.

Mr. Mudd then asked what, to the most recent date, was the annual percentage of vehicle tyres recycled, what steps were being taken to encourage a higher level of recycling, and what, expressed both as a tonnage and as a percentage of old tyres rendered obsolete, was regarded as the optimum recycling target.

Mr. Benn said: 'A survey carried out last year by the Local Government Operational Research Unit found that approximately one-third of a million tons of tyres of all types (or approximately 50 million tyres at 150 to the ton) became available as arisings in the UK each year. Almost half of these arisings are recycled and further quantities are disposed of by export or by incineration to produce energy.

'I am not at present in a position to state an optimum target for recycling of tyres, but studies aimed at increasing the level of

Market prices of foodstuffs at early May 1974

Commodity	Description	Place of quotation	Unit	Early May 1974
Wheat	US No. 2 Dark N. Spring (14%)	cif UK	£ per ton	77.00
	Canadian No. 1 WRS (14%) (Tilbury)			105.00
	EEC Milling Wheat (W. Coast)			63.25
Beef	English hinds	Smithfield	pence per lb	36.00
	Scottish killed sides			29.0
	Eire hinds			36.0
	Eire fores			20.0
	Argentina, boned, rumps			79.0
	Australian, boneless, rumps			41.8
Bacon	British (other than Ulster) A1	London Provision Exchange	£ per ton	620
	Ulster A1			580
	Irish special grade (delivered)			600
	Danish A1 (ex quay)			650
	Swedish A1 (ex quay)			590
	Polish			595
Butter (packet)	delivered – minimum 2-ton rate)			
	Foil – English	London Provision Exchange	£ per cwt	28.12
	Irish Republic			28.25
	Danish salt (lactic)			30.12
	Dutch unsalted (lactic)			31.40
	French			31.50
	New Zealand			26.48
Lard	English	London Provision Exchange	£ per ton	295
	English, refined			315
	Danish			325
	Polish			300
	Rumanian			325
	USA (UK packed)			324
Apples	France: Golden Delicious	Covent Garden	pence per 20 lb carton	110-120
			pence per 30 lb carton	165
	Italy: Golden Delicious		pence per lb	5-6
	South Africa: Golden Delicious		pence per 34 lb carton	360-380
Tomatoes (per carton)	Guernsey	Covent Garden	pence per 12 lb	250-280
	Holland		pence per 13 lb	280-300
	Morocco		pence per 13 lb	140-170
	Canary Islands		pence per 13 lb	150-240
Pears	Italy, Passacrassana, tray	Covent Garden	pence	5-6
	South Africa: Buerre Hardy (per carton)		pence per 34 lb	400
	Beurre Bosc (per carton)		pence per 34 lb	360
	Packham (per carton)		pence per 34 lb	400-410
	Winter Nelis (per carton)		pence per 34 lb	350
	Keiffer (per carton)		pence per 34 lb	360-370
	Australia, Packham (per carton)		pence per 44 lb	460-490

Sources:
The Public Ledger.
The London and National Provision Exchange Ltd.
Fruit Trades Journal.

recycling are at present being undertaken by my Department in conjunction with the Department of the Environment.'

Electricity prices

Would the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection make a statement, asked Mr. Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) about the position of area electricity boards under the new pre-notification requirements relating to cost adjustment clauses.

Mrs. Williams said: 'The Counter-Inflation (Notification of Increases in Prices and Charges) (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 1974 (S.I. 1974/840) is being laid today. This Order provides, in place of a provision in the Counter-Inflation (Notification of Increases in Prices and Charges) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 1974 (S.I. 1974/775), that the requirement to pre-notify to the Price Commission price increases under escalation or variation of price clauses shall not apply to increases in prices or charges implemented by Area Electricity Boards, or by the Northern Ireland Electricity Service, before 15 October 1974. Copies of the Order will be available to Members in the Vote Office.'

Milk subsidy

Mr. Iain MacCormick (Argyll) suggested the extension of the consumer milk subsidy to cover the product of dairy farms on Scottish islands which do not come under the Scottish Milk Marketing Board Scheme.

Mrs. Williams said: 'The Standing Committee now considering the Prices Bill has agreed to a Government amendment which will enable a subsidy to be paid on milk produced outside the areas covered by the Milk Marketing Boards. We are considering with our Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland the possibility of introducing a scheme for some of the Scottish Islands, and will make a further announcement as soon as possible.'

Beef prices

Mr. Bates (Bebington and Ellesmere Port) asked for a list of the average retail price of beef for each month from January 1973 until the latest available date.

Mr. Maclennan gave the following information:

Turkish yarn

Figures were asked for by Mr. Cyril Smith (Rochdale) of imports of Turkish yarn in 1972 and 1973.

The following information was given by Mr. Deakins:

	1972 (cwt.)	1973 (cwt.)
Cotton yarn and thread, grey	590	7,208
Cotton yarn put up for retail sale	Nil	99

UK trade

Mr. Neil Marten (Banbury) asked by what percentage the UK's exports rose in 1973 over 1972 to North America, the Sterling area and Japan, respectively.

Mr. Shore answered: '21.0, 20.8 and 58.5 respectively.'

Mr. Marten then asked what percentage of the UK's imports was taken in 1972 and 1973 from (a) the original six members of the Common Market, and (b) by Denmark and the Republic of Ireland.

'24.5 and 7.1 in 1972, 26.4 and 6.4 in 1973,' answered Mr. Shore.

Mr. Marten also wanted to know the value and the volume of the UK's exports and imports in 1972 and 1973 to the eight countries now forming the Common Market.

'Figures of the volume of trade with individual countries are not compiled,' answered Mr. Shore. 'Value figures for the countries of the EEC are published in Tables I and III of Vol. I of the *Annual Statement of Trade* for 1972 and in Tables II and V of the December issue of the *Overseas Trade Statistics* for 1973. For the EEC as a whole, imports were £3,521 million and £5,197 million respectively for years 1972 and 1973; exports were £2,941 million and £4,030 million.'

Thursday, 16 May

Imports of TV programmes

Mr. George Rodgers (Chorley) asked for figures showing the most recent annual cost to the UK of importing television programmes from the USA; and for the figure of dollar earnings in the same period by the sale of British programmes to the American market.

Mr. Deakins said: 'In 1972 the BBC and ITA programme contractors spent in North America £1.5 million on television screening rights and programmes; their corresponding receipts were £4.2 million. Separate figures for the United States are not available.'

Concorde

An estimate was asked for by Mr. Stephen Hastings (Mid-Bedfordshire) of the break-even load factor for Concorde; and on what figures the calculation is based with regard to use, depreciation, forecast fuel costs and ticket prices for the North Atlantic route, Australia and Japan.

Mr. Benn replied: 'Estimates of Concorde's load factor on particular routes, and the assumptions made about matters such as those mentioned by the hon Member, will vary considerably between individual airlines. We are considering the possibility of publishing British Airways figures on those routes sufficiently established, in line with our policy of open Government.'

Trade with South Africa

Would the Secretary of State for Industry make a statement, asked Mr. John Biffen (Oswestry): outlining the attitude of his department towards trade with South Africa of companies in which the Department of Industry has an equity stake, particularly in the light of machine tool orders from South Africa worth about £2.25 million which have been booked by Kearney and Trecker Marwin in which the department has a 9.1 per cent interest.

Mr. Benn said: 'Financial assistance, in the form of preference shares and loans, was provided by the previous administration to Kearney and Trecker Marwin under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972. I understand that the orders referred to are for the supply of machine tools for the production of engines for passenger motor vehicles. These are not subject to export control.'

EEC Membership

Mr. Norman Lamont inquired about consultations with the CBI about the effect of the UK's membership of the European Economic Community.

'I attended the meeting which the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs held with the CBI on 10 May to discuss the recent paper on the evolution of the European Community,' said Mr. Heffer. 'If they appear desirable, further consultations will follow.'

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF BEEF IN THE UNITED KINGDOM (JANUARY 1973 to MARCH, 1974) — Pence per lb

	1973												1974		
	16 Jan.	20 Feb.	20 Mar.	17 Apr.	22 May	19 Jun.	17 Jul.	21 Aug.	18 Sept.	16 Oct.	13 Nov.	11 Dec.	15 Jan.	19 Feb.	19 Mar.
Beef, home killed:															
Chuck	54.4	54.9	54.5	53.9	54.4	54.6	54.9	54.8	55.1	55.6	56.1	56.6	57.0	56.3	56.1
Sirloin (without bone)	75.3	74.0	73.7	73.5	74.9	75.4	77.1	77.7	78.0	78.3	78.3	79.1	79.8	78.8	78.8
Silverside (without bone)*	67.7	65.4	65.0	64.4	66.3	66.9	68.1	68.5	68.4	67.9	68.1	68.6	69.1	68.6	68.5
Backribs (with bone)*	49.6	49.5	49.1	48.6	49.1	49.6	49.8	50.1	50.0	50.5	50.8	51.3	51.6	51.1	50.9
Foreribs (with bone)	48.2	48.4	48.0	47.4	47.8	48.0	48.5	48.9	48.8	48.9	49.2	49.7	50.5	50.1	49.8
Brisket (with bone)	35.6	35.8	35.6	35.4	35.8	35.9	35.8	36.1	36.0	36.3	36.4	36.8	—	—	—
Brisket (without bone)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50.3	49.9	50.3
Rump steak*	90.0	87.7	87.0	86.9	88.5	89.5	91.7	92.8	93.1	92.7	92.2	92.0	91.9	91.5	91.4
Beef, imported chilled:															
Chuck	45.8	47.5	48.3	48.3	48.9	48.5	48.9	49.8	50.3	51.0	51.1	51.7	52.4	51.8	51.7
Silverside (without bone)*	53.8	56.5	58.1	58.0	59.0	58.3	58.3	59.5	60.6	60.8	60.7	61.5	61.3	62.3	62.9
Rump steak*	67.2	68.2	70.1	72.9	75.4	75.0	76.6	77.7	78.4	78.6	78.6	78.1	78.1	76.4	76.6

* Or Scottish equivalent

Source: Department of Employment.

Addresses of ECGD local offices

The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) is a Government Department providing export credit insurance for United Kingdom exporters and insurance against political risks for new investments overseas. Although credit insurance is its main service to exporters the Department offers them a number of others. Firstly the Bank Guarantee scheme is available to exporters who have held an ECGD comprehensive type policy for 12 months. This scheme enables exporters to obtain export finance from their bank at a special low rate. Major projects carried out by British firms in overseas countries can be financed by the buyer credit technique which gives the exporter the bulk of his payment on shipment of the goods. Similar to this is the line of credit facility which extends the buyer credit principle to include contracts often with an individual value as low as £10,000. ECGD now insures 38 per cent of all UK exports. For full details of all ECGD services contact Publicity Branch, ECGD, Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2 2EL, telephone 01-606 6699 extension 258, telex 883601, or get in touch with your local branch office listed below.

London (City)

London postal districts E, and EC2 and 3, South Essex.

J. V. Baker, Marlon House, 71-74 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HS. Tel. 01-488 3491. Telex 886888.

London (South)

London postal districts of SE1-27 and SW2-20, W2-14. Counties of Kent, Surrey and Sussex, East Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Isles.

G. J. A. Link, First Floor, Lancaster House, 70 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6EG. Tel. 01-407 5011. Telex 888575.

London (North)

London postal districts of N, EC1, WC1 and 2, South Herts and South Bucks, and Middlesex.

C. W. Gentry, 1-4 Old North Street, Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4TE. Tel. 01-405 8991. Telex 263615.

London (West)

London postal district EC4, NW, SW1 and W1.

D. G. Hake, Waverley House, 7-12 Noel Street, London W1V 3PB. Tel. 01-437 2292. Telex 24105.

Belfast

The six counties of Northern Ireland.

R. H. Forsyth, River House, High Street, Belfast BT1 2BE. Tel. Belfast 31743/4. Telex 74577.

Birmingham

Counties of Shropshire, Worcester, Warwick, Stafford, Nottingham, Leicester, Rutland and parts of Derby.

F. Wilmot, Colmore Centre, 115 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3SB. Tel. 021-233 1771. Telex 33132.

Bristol

Counties of Gloucester, Hereford, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, West Hampshire, Cardigan, Brecon, Pembroke, Carmarthen, Glamorgan, Monmouth and Radnor.

K. I. Humphrey, Robinson Building, 1 Redcliffe Street, Bristol BS1 6NP. Tel. 0272 29991. Telex 44248.

Cambridge

Counties of Bedford, Cambridge, Huntingdon and Peterborough, Northants, Norfolk, Suffolk, North Bucks, North Essex, North Herts and South Lincs, including City of Lincoln.

H. Watson, Prudential Buildings, 59 St. Andrews Street, Cambridge CB2 3HA. Tel. Cambridge 67736, Telex 81624.

Glasgow

Scotland and the Outer Isles.

F. R. Burge, Fleming House, 134 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G3 6TL. Tel 041-332 8707. Telex 77130.

Leeds

The counties of York, Durham, Northumberland and part of Lincoln.

W. Ford, Liverpool Victoria House, 8 Otley Road, Leeds LS6 2AN. Tel. Leeds 782121. Telex 55125.

Manchester

Lancashire, Cheshire, Cumberland, Westmorland and part of Derbyshire; the Welsh counties of Anglesey, Caernarvon, Denbigh, Flint and Montgomery and the Isle of Man.

R. H. K. Hughes, Elisabeth House, St. Peter's Square, Manchester, M2 4AJ. Tel. 061-228 3621. Telex 667756.

New York

In the United States exporters can obtain assistance from the Department's resident Representative for the USA and Canada:

J. A. Dorrian DFM, c/o British Trade Development Office, 150 East 58th Street, New York 10022, USA. Tel. 212-593-2258. Telex 420543.

Government Sales

Department of the Environment

4 June 1974

Location: Department of the Environment, Supplies Division Stores, India Pavilion, Exhibition Grounds, Wembley, Middlesex (Tel: 01-903 2608)

Auctioneers: Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons and Cassell, 52 Bow Lane, London EC4M 9ET (Tel: 01-248 7954)

Office and miscellaneous furniture, engineering, electrical, canteen, domestic and other equipment, etc.

Catalogue: direct from auctioneer, price 10p each.

Ministry of Defence

30 May 1974

Location: Lido Hall, Worthy Lane, Winchester, Hants.

Auctioneers: Austin & Wyatt (Dept. L), 79 High Street, Fareham, Hants PO16 7AX (Tel: 03292-4211)

The lots on offer include aluminium ware, electric motors, electrical-MT and wireless spares, mowers, tools, tyres, scrap metal, 100 machine tools – grinders, lathes, saw benches, drillers, millers, etc. 55,000 jerricans, 300 lots of furniture which include bureaux, chairs and settees. 280 lots of clothing and textiles ie blankets, carpets, jerseys, rags, raincoats and other service clothing.

5 June 1974

Location: The Astoria, Roundhay Road, Leeds 8.

Auctioneers: Bartle & Son (Dept. L), 52 Merrion Street, Leeds LS2 8JH (Tel: 0532-20898).

Lathes, drilling grinding, milling, shaping etc. machines, presses, saws, compressors, fork lift trucks, tractors, generator, degreasing and cleansing plant, trolley jacks, welding and pneumatic equipment, MT spares, cable tyres, tools lifting and towing equipment, batteries, carpets, tents, blankets, kit bags, camp equipment, greatcoats, battledress blouses and trousers, pullovers, shirts, drawers and other items of service clothing. Household and office furniture including chairs, tables, wardrobes, bookcases, chests of drawers, filing cabinets and a large quantity of other miscellaneous stores.

Catalogues of the above sales, which gives details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times etc. are available from the relevant auctioneers from two weeks prior to and up to the date of the sale, price 10p (postal orders only).

Department of Trade

Conversion of Stern Trawler to Research Ship

Tenders are being invited for the conversion of a stern trawler for fishery research purposes, to Lloyds + 100 A1 and D.T.I. standards.

The work will consist of extensive conversion of accommodation and working spaces and replacement of processing machinery. The particulars of the ship are:

Built in Poland	—1968
Length overall	—69.35 metres
Length between perps	—60.30 metres
Breadth moulded	—12.00 metres
Gross tonnage	—928
Nett tonnage	—322
Main engine power	—2,500 s.h.p.
Speed	—14.5 knots

Brief details may be obtained by writing to Department of Trade, SP1c (Sea Transport), at 34-36 Parliament Street, London SW1A 2ND.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

is proposing to build new offices for
THE BRITISH EMBASSY
KINSHASA, ZAIRE

Sketch plans for the Project have been approved and construction is at present expected to start in August 1975. The Project Manager/Consultant will be Mr. R. W. R. Adams, A.R.I.B.A.

It is expected that each of the following services will form the subject of a nominated sub-contract:

(a) MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
AIR CONDITIONING & LIFT

(b) ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Contractors who wish to be considered for invitation to tender for either the main contract or a nominated sub-contract for the project are invited to write to:

The Department of the Environment
(Contracts Demos/EO6)
Room B214. Whitgift Centre
Wellesley Road, Croydon
CR9 3LY

Suppliers of British materials who wish to bring their products to notice should also write to the above address. Choice of the source of supply of most of the materials to be used in this project will be the responsibility of the main contractors or sub-contractors, provided that the materials conform to the design requirements and the specification. Contractors will, of course make their choice on normal commercial criteria of price, delivery time, etc., subject to the articles meeting with the approval of the Project Manager/Consultant.

A further announcement will be made when tenders for the project are about to be invited, advising suppliers of materials about the facilities available at that stage to enable them to ascertain whether their products would be suitable for incorporation in the project, and the arrangements for bringing suitable products to the attention of the selected tenderers for the project.

Hong Kong – shop window and market place of the Far East

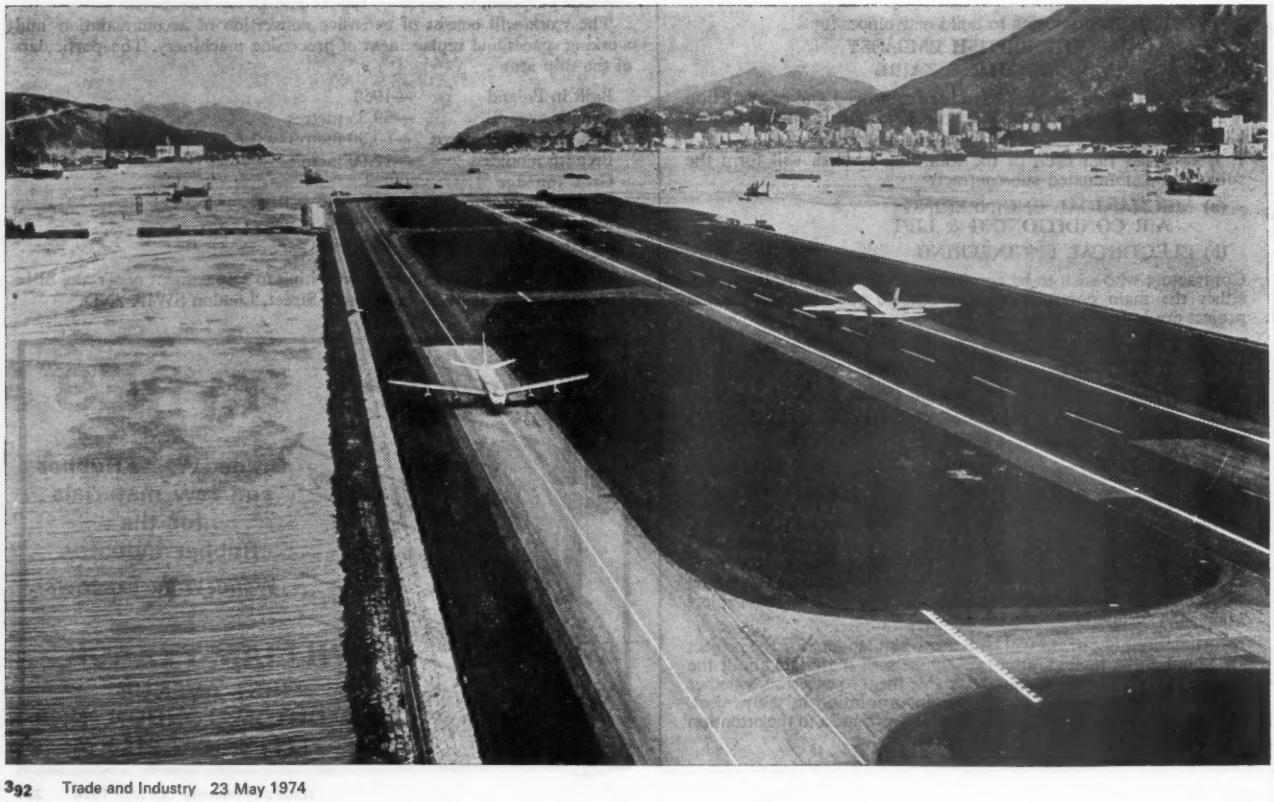
T. W. Aston, C.M.G., Senior British Trade Commissioner, Hong Kong

Hong Kong is much bigger and more important as a trader and a market than it looks on the map. It is also nowadays a very different place from the legendary home of the shopper's bargain and cheap export goods.

Its 4½ million people crowded into 400 square miles of which less than 70 per cent is inhabited and habitable, produce approximately £1,620 million of exports and £540 million of re-exports and import some £2,400 million. It puts Hong Kong in 18th place among the trading nations of the non-communist world, and 20th among Britain's world suppliers (fifth in the whole Far East and South East Asia) and 23rd among Britain's markets (fourth in the region). It is for example a bigger market and supplier than Brazil or Portugal, or Yugoslavia. The per capita GDP of £570 (approx.) is one of the highest in the world and certainly the highest in this region. Its main products and exports are still textiles and plastics. The former accounts for approximately 47 per cent of industrial production, 50 per cent of exports and employs some 45 per cent of the industrial labour force. Plastics account for 10 per cent of production, 9 per cent of exports and 12 per cent of the labour. But even in these traditional industries change is gathering pace. Competition from newly developing countries in the area where labour and general production costs are now cheaper than in Hong Kong, and which at present have preferential advantages over Hong Kong in Europe and Japan, is forcing Hong Kong to trade up in range and quality and to look for more sophisticated, labour saving methods of production.

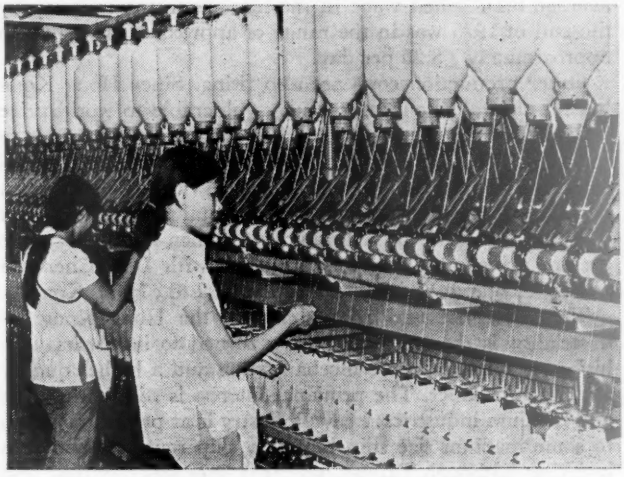
But the changes taking place and in prospect in the economy, the industrial and sociological pattern, go much further than that. Hong Kong's prosperity has had three main roots – abundant manually dextrous, hard working and cheap labour; the enterprise and quick adaptability of its industrialists switching from one product to another with market demand and often using makeshift methods; and laissez faire. There is still a lot of manually dextrous labour – the natural increase

The runway at Hong Kong's Kaitak airport extends 8,350 feet into Kowloon Bay. Major extensions will enlarge the runway to 11,000 feet for 'Jumbo' jets and supersonic airliners.



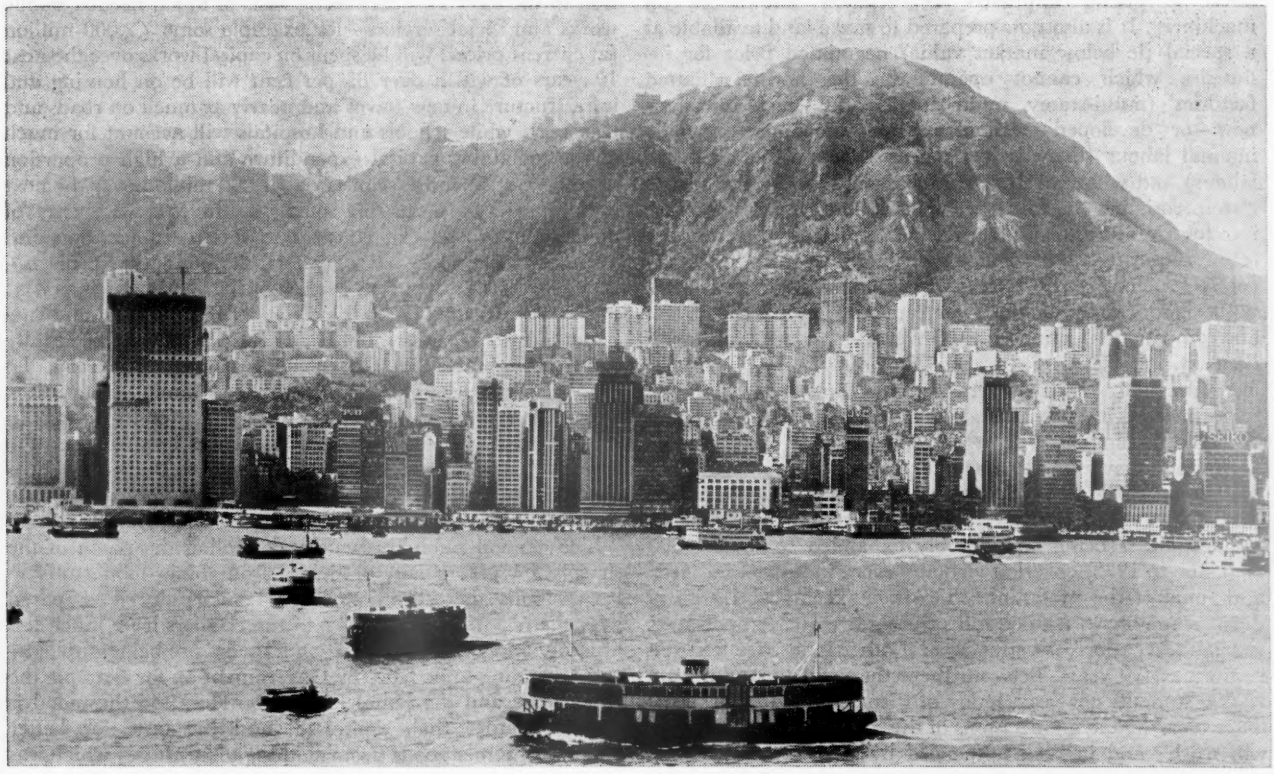
RIGHT:
Hong Kong, now the largest exporter of toys in the world, makes an endless variety of playthings for children, from simple dolls and fluffy animals to sophisticated mechanical toys. The Colony now has some 1,300 toy factories employing nearly 42,000 workers.

CENTRE:
Quality controlled spinning in laboratory conditions in a Hong Kong Spinners Ltd. factory. Hong Kong's textile and clothing industry accounts for nearly 50 per cent of all domestic exports and employs about 45 per cent of the Colony's labour force.



BELOW:
View of the Central District, Hong Kong showing the newly completed Connaught Centre (left).

is some 1.5 per cent and there is still an inflow of several thousand immigrants a year from China. But the demands on the labour are growing fast. Ambitious schemes for public works are under way including an underground railway system, extensive road works and tunnelling, and a massive 10-year housing programme involving the construction of some 400,000 residential units plus schools, hospitals, community centres, and plans for new industrial estates, two more private enterprise container berths (there are three already) and a slackened but still fast pace of private residential and commercial building, hotels and at least one comprehensive holiday resort with another in prospect. And allied to all this, continually expanding electricity generating plant (at present diesel but nuclear power is being talked about as a possibility), water supply (the largest desalter in the world is at present under construction to provide 40 million gallons a day and a feasibility study is in hand on a second) and sewage disposal and pollution control. The Government are sufficiently con-



cerned about the possibility that the public works might syphon labour from the export earning industries to have put in hand a survey of the labour demand/supply position over the next few years. Partly because of the competing demands for it (although labour is still relatively unorganised) and partly because of the rapidly increasing cost of living (the Consumer Price Index, including a heavy weighting of unvoidable food imports, increased by over 20 per cent in 1973) the cost of labour is increasing – by 11 per cent in 1973 – although it is as yet lagging behind the cost of living. The average semi-skilled wage in the manufacturing industry by the end of 1973 was in the range of approximately £1.00 to approximately £3.20 per day.

Other production costs are also rising. Since Hong Kong has no natural resources it is very vulnerable to world price increases in raw materials. There are plans to reduce this to some extent by building a combined refinery and petrochemical plant; after extensive studies it has been given qualified clearance from the environmental point of view, but it is still not clear who will build it or when it will start (the present principal contenders are Shell with Dow Chemical and TOA (Japan) with Textile Alliance Ltd., Hong Kong.

The enterprise and adaptability of the Hong Kong industrialists is therefore now being turned to industries with higher technology, more mechanisation and a higher quality and price product. The principal interest is still in the light and medium industries: heavy industry is at present confined to some medium size ship building, ship repairers and ship breaking (although Taiwan has taken over much of this) and relatively small steel mills using scrap metal. To encourage the modernisation and expansion of industry the Government is giving improved depreciation allowances on machinery. It is also now prepared to make land available at a special (ie below market value) negotiated price for industries which cannot operate in the normal 'flatted factories' (multi-storey, multi-tenant) and which introduce new – or developed – technology, are economic on male manual labour (there is less concern about female manual labour) and will earn foreign exchange. The Government is also intensifying its efforts to persuade foreign firms to enter into joint venture with Hong Kong firms; again the emphasis is on acquiring new technology. There are no special incentives such as tax holidays: the attractions offered are a low tax structure (at present 15 per cent maximum on personal and company tax), minimum of Government control (although there is, inevitably, increasing Government involvement), freedom to move capital and profits, and free enterprise reaffirmed in the recent Budget as the shibboleth of Hong Kong economic policy.

Another Government move to assist and encourage improvement of the technical base of industry is the programme for significant increase of technical education. The existing Polytechnic is being considerably expanded to some 8,000 students (in 1978) covering virtually every industry and trade and some of the professions. Two new Technical Institutes devoted mainly to textiles and printing are due to open next year and five more, covering several other industries, are due in the next 10 years. Between them they will turn out some 25,000 students per year, many of them destined to have influence on the buying decisions of the factories for which they will work – and in turn influenced by whatever machinery they are trained on so that whoever supplies the machines to the new Institutes (and they will be equipping from scratch) should have a considerable continuous and accumulating advantage within industry as a whole.

This M300 12 inch swing lathe is produced by T. S. Harrison & Sons Ltd. (part of the 600 Group) for world markets including Hong Kong, and other countries in the Far East. Inspectors are seen testing the machine, after assembly. A final inspection certificate is issued with every machine before it is despatched to the customer.

Future prospects

At present the business mood is cautious. It is readjusting after the high fever of the 1973 boom and realigning to the new world economic realities. But over the slightly longer term it is as confident as ever. Government has drawn attention to the inevitable increasing costs of much needed public works and social services – for example some £2,000 million (at current prices) will be spent on capital works over the next 10 years of which over 35 per cent will be on housing and infrastructure in new towns and nearly as much on roads and transport, while schools and hospitals will account for much of the remaining capital expenditure and a high proportion of recurrent expenditure of some £1,000 million over the next three years. To meet this some cuts in costs, economy of method, improved export earnings, increased taxation and overseas borrowing – but only for self liquidating projects – may all be necessary. But, even allowing for as much as is at present foreseeable about the effects of increased oil and raw material prices (the wash of which has still not yet been fully felt in Hong Kong) the Government are optimistic about the possibilities for continuing growth. The latest estimate is a 4 per cent growth in GPD at constant prices (or 15 per cent in money terms) which is half of what it was in 1973. And the financial position is sound; this year a small Budget deficit is expected but there are adequate reserves, a very high credit rating and plenty of scope for raising further revenue.

The general public are currently feeling the pinch of the sharply increasing cost of living, from basic food stuffs to luxury items: their spending power is much reduced compared with the boom of early 1973 and the retailers have much less liquidity for stock piling. But some brakes are being applied – and beginning to be felt – by Government on for example the cost of rice and the rental for homes. Here too the mood is cautious rather than depressed, and the taste for better quality consumer goods (from clothing to furniture) which was

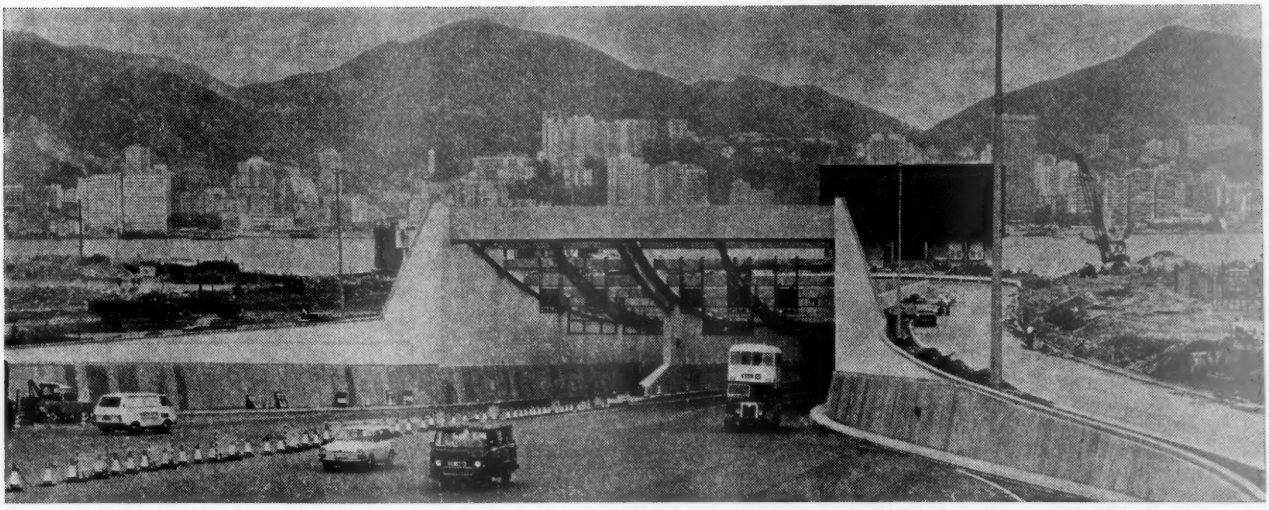
Laying of 2000-pair Hyperden cable supplied by British Insulated Callender's Cables Ltd., Prescot. Photo shows cable being laid in a very high density residential area known as Wong Tai Sin, Hong Kong. In the background can be seen part of the Wong Tai Sin Temple. Hyperden telephone cable was selected to be used to meet the needs of this area which had previously suffered a shortage of telephones due to the great amount of new resettlement blocks established there.

rapidly sharpened last year has certainly not faded, not does it seem likely to – Hong Kong has become a brand conscious market.

Opportunities for Britain

There are opportunities for British exporters in almost every field including quality consumer goods. There are special opportunities in machine tools, gradually moving up the technological scale, low cost automation, mechanical handling, textiles and printing machinery, building techniques, equipment and supplies, hospital equipment, and (because the heavy and accumulating road congestion is high on the Government policy target list) public transport, medium size coaches and the small to medium range of cars. Although our exports to Hong Kong increased by some 28 per cent to £127 million last year this was less than the overall increase so that our share of the market remains only at 6 per cent, in fourth position behind Japan, China and USA and with Taiwan and West Germany fast catching up on us. We ought to be able to do much better than this. There is an inherent readiness to buy British, although this does not extend to giving British suppliers preference over others unless the price, quality, delivery and after sales service are competitive. Performance on each of these counts has too often not measured up to the competition in the past – for various reasons (including difficulties now being experienced by our competitors) there is a better chance to do so in the future. But the market needs, and merits, active and continuous cultivation by visits from suppliers; relying on agents (good as they are) is not sufficient – our competitors come here regularly. It is still too often the case that British suppliers fallaciously assume that since Hong Kong is a Colony it is a captive market for Britain, instead of seeing and treating it as the highly competitive, fast moving, expanding and ever changing market that it is.

Finally it should be kept in mind that Hong Kong is more than itself. It is a shop window to much of South East Asia; many of its industrialists are (increasingly) setting up factories in other parts of the region; many of the commercial enterprises and agencies operate around the region; it has over one million tourists a year; and it is a financial and communications centre on the way to everywhere, not least to China and Japan.



The HK$320 million (£22 million) toll tunnel linking the island of Hong Kong to its hinterland of Kowloon and the New Territories. The 6,062-foot tunnel is the longest of its kind in the world. The work was undertaken by a consortium comprising Costain Civil Engineering Ltd., the Paul Y Construction Co. of Hong Kong, and Raymond International of New York. Sub-contractors included British Steel Federation and Philips Industries, and the engineering consultants were Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick and Freeman Fox and Partners.

Exhibitions and Fairs

Orders worth over a quarter of a million pounds taken at British Medical Exhibition, Tokyo

Dr. Takemi, President of the Japan Medical Association and guest of honour at the opening reception, visits the British Oxygen stand at the British Medical Equipment Exhibiton held at the British Export Centre last month. He is seen talking to a representative of the Tokyo BOC Office. BOC exhibits included equipment for anaesthesia intensive care, resuscitation and inhalation therapy. The exhibition was sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board.

Orders worth £277,000 were taken at the first British Overseas Trade Board-sponsored British Medical Exhibition, held at the British Export Marketing Centre in Tokyo from 23 to 27 April. The 24 British companies who took part expect an increase in sales of up to £1½ million over the next twelve months, and the seven firms looking for agents received a large number of inquiries and found potential representatives.

Among the firms who took part, Day's Medical Aids Ltd. of Glamorgan have signed up a Japanese agent for their walking aids and physiotherapy equipment. They hope to export many hundreds of units worth about £20,000 over the next twelve months for use by the disabled in Japan. They had nine or ten offers from potential agents and consider Japan a very good market.

EMI Limited of Hayes, Middlesex, presented their world-famous Emiscanner system for the brain which was exhibited in Japan at the International Congress of Neuro-surgery in October 1973 and which aroused a keen interest then among Japanese neuro-surgeons. Their representative said that there are potential sales in Japan for not less than ten machines and it could be three times that number. They are in the process of arranging for an agent with the necessary servicing ability. The potential value of sales is several millions of pounds.

Portex Ltd of Hythe, Kent, a winner of the Queen's Award to Industry for Exports in 1974 as well as in 1971, are now concluding arrangements with a Japanese firm for a joint venture to market and eventually manufacture Portex's range of anaesthetic products. Japan is now Portex's third largest export market.

'Enormous market' for medical equipment

Mr. Neville Ripley, marketing director of Penlon and a member of the Japan Trade Advisory Group, summing up, said, 'The Japanese market for medical equipment is enormous and, as expectations of medical health care among Japanese people rise, the market will continue to develop. Previously the main influences on the Japanese medical profession were first German and then, after the last War, American. However, the British medical industry has made a vigorous attack on the market since 1969 and at the same time the Japanese medical profession has become more aware of British medical techniques through closer contacts with the British profession'.

Advertising in 'Trade and Industry'

Inquiries about advertising in *Trade and Industry* should be addressed to HMSO, Room C70, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1BN. (Tel. 01-248 9876, ext. 6147).

British Shopping Week in Ghent this year

A British Shopping Week is to be held in the city of Ghent, in Belgium, from 6 to 14 September. This will be the sixth in the series of such promotions to take place in this country since the successful British Week in Brussels in 1967. The opening weekend will coincide with the 30th Anniversary of the Liberation of Ghent by British troops on 8 September 1944 and the occasion will be commemorated by solemn ceremonies in Ghent.

Ghent is the fourth largest town in Belgium with a population of 225,000, enlarged by many more people who come into the town from the surrounding areas for their shopping. The 'target area' for the Shopping Week will concentrate on the city's traditional shopping areas and about 600 retailers have agreed to participate actively; this includes five department stores. The shops will be decorated with attractive display material sent over to Belgium by the British Overseas Trade Board and British flags will decorate the city.

The British atmosphere will be supported by many other events. The Alamein Staff Band of the Royal Tank Regiment, one of the two British regiments to liberate Ghent, will give concerts throughout the city from 6-14 September and the band of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards will be present from 6-9 September. Pipers and British 'bobbies' are also expected. Other attractions will be concerts, theatre performances, various exhibitions with a commercial flavour, possibly a ship's visit, and some sporting events. Some British firms and organisations are taking the opportunity to put on special functions to promote their products. The Shopping Week officially ends on 14 September, but the Ghent International Fair opens on that day and Great Britain will be 'guest of honour'. Local agents of British firms will present room settings completely furnished and decorated by British products to demonstrate the 'British Art of Living' and there will be a 'Tourism and Travel' stand organised collectively by 10 British tourism or travel organisations. The fair is open from 14 to 29 September.

The purpose of the Shopping Week is to increase the availability of British goods in the Ghent stores and shops and many of them have expressed interest in finding new sources of supply from Britain. Notices about these specific export opportunities have been put out through the Department of Trade's Export Intelligence Service and lists of shops can be obtained from Overseas Trading Lists Section, Export Data Branch, Room D22, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (Tel: 01-248 5757, ext. 245). General inquiries about the Shopping Week should be addressed to Miss E. J. Slegg, Department of Trade, Fairs and Promotions Branch, Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7HU (Tel: 01-248, 5757, ext. 7197).

About 2,000 Belgian agents of United Kingdom manufacturers of consumer goods are being kept fully informed of plans for the Week, but British manufacturers should also emphasise to their agents the opportunity this event offers to increase British sales in this prosperous Flemish city. Belgian agents in need of further information or assistance should approach the Commercial Department of the British Embassy, Rue Joseph 11.28, 1040 Brussels (Tel: (20) 191 11 65).

First British joint venture at International Meat Trades Fair

From Mrs. R. S. Holmes, Vice-Consul, British Consulate-General, Frankfurt. British industry was represented in fair strength at the International Meat Trades Fair (IFFA 74) which took place in Frankfurt from 28 April to 5 May 1974. Nine British companies participated in a joint venture organised by the British Overseas Trade Board in conjunction with the London Chamber of Commerce. IFFA, which is held every three years, is now considered to be the most important international trade fair for the meat processing industry and butchery trade.

It attracted some 67,000 visitors and trade buyers, of whom nearly one-sixth were from abroad, coming from 69 countries, including the United Kingdom, Switzerland, France, Italy, USA, Japan, Australia, Canada and a number of Eastern European countries. In all 519 exhibitors, including 105 non-German firms from 14 countries, displayed on an exhibition area of 43,600 sq. metres abattoir fittings, machinery and equipment for the processing, preserving, smoking, cutting and packing of meat and meat products, refrigerated store and shop fittings, packaging machinery and materials, as well as spices and flavourings.

The largest national groups besides the hosts were those of the Netherlands (18 exhibitors), France (17), Denmark (15), Switzerland (13) followed by the United Kingdom with its joint venture, consisting of nine firms and an information stand staffed by the London Chamber of Commerce.

The British joint venture featured equipment ranging from the unique microwave meat defrosting tunnel, which attracted great interest, meat cutting, sawing, mixing and blending machinery to rotary ovens, vacuum packing machines and vacuum pumps to spices, flavourings and meat seasonings. The majority of the British exhibitors enjoyed a successful Fair, booking firm orders and receiving numerous inquiries from agents and distributors from a wide range of countries, many of which are expected to lead worthwhile orders.

Consequently the British exhibitors almost without exception found their participation rewarding and expressed their intention of exhibiting again at the next IFFA in 1977.

Some of the visitors to the British joint venture at Frankfurt's IFFA '74.

Export Business

Glass process plant for Mexican institute laboratories

A major export order, to supply 12 glass teaching units for instructing chemical and process engineering students in Mexican technical institutes, has been received by Jobling Process Plant Division of Stoke-on-Trent.

The order, placed by the Comite Administrador del Programa Federal de Construcción de Escuelas (CAPFCE), is for QVF teaching units made from borosilicate glass, a material widely used in chemical processing and the food industry because of its heat resistance and chemically inert properties.

By creating a working chemical or industrial process plant in glass units, the complex nature of a distillation or an extraction process can be followed through all its stages inside glass process lines and vessels. For the student and lecturer, the great advantage of QVF glass teaching units is the ability to see exactly what is happening during a process – flow patterns, colour changes and vapour distribution can be closely observed and noted.

The 12 teaching units on order include a sieve-plate distillation column, a packed tower absorption unit, solid-liquid extraction units and 20 litre reaction units. Other equipment includes demonstration units for studying heat exchanger behaviour and fluid flow.

Jobling Process Plant Division has supplied a large number of teaching units to universities and technical colleges throughout the world including Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Jamaica, Nigeria, New Zealand, Singapore and Turkey. One of their largest contracts, for teaching units, is equipping three new process plant laboratories at Stretford Technical College, Manchester, which is nearing completion.

Pye TVT Ltd., has received a £7.7 million contract from the Middle Eastern Sultanate of Oman to supply a complete television system. It is probably the largest single broadcasting contract ever placed and is the largest contract of any kind received by the Pye Group. Picture shows the successful three-man, one-woman team that signed up the deal on their return to Cambridge. Marketing manager, Peter Lance (left) looks at Omani Press coverage of the contract and congratulates (from left to right), Tom McGann, Peter Tunnah, Mavis Forsdyke and Peter Otter. The contract was signed for the Sultanate by the Minister of Information and Tourism, HE Sayed Fahd Bin Mahmoud Al Saiid.

Order for stainless steel tube for urea plant

TI Chesterfield Ltd. have received from Holland an order for seamless stainless steel tube for use in a Stamicarbon licensed urea plant.

Stamicarbon of Holland are licensors of a urea process plant design and can influence their licensees' choice of suppliers for materials and components for plant using their process. Large quantities of stainless steel tube are required in urea plants, which provide a raw material for the fertiliser industry. Pressure requirements and corrosive conditions require high quality standards for steel tube used in the plants and to meet these demands TI Chesterfield Ltd. has now supplied seamless tube to Bronswerk of Holland, a Stamicarbon licensee.

Discussions with both Stamicarbon and Bronswerk on quality control standards clarified the manufacturing, testing and material requirements. First samples of production tube were supplied and test documentation was prepared to the required format.

Following the satisfactory performance of the initial contract the Walsall factory of TI Chesterfield Ltd.'s Stainless Steel Division can now supply tube for the most stringent areas of urea plants constructed under Stamicarbon licence.

Seamless stainless steel tube manufactured by TI Chesterfield Ltd.'s Stainless Steel Division meets a wide variety of requirements in the chemicals, power generation, nuclear and related industries. In urea plant using other processes, tube from the Walsall factory has already seen service in Britain, India, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia and other countries.

Aerospace firm wins Californian contract

A contract with a potential annual value of over $3.5 million has been awarded to Plessey Aerospace by Rohr Industries Inc. of Chula Vista, California.

The contract is for the supply of pneumatically-driven thrust reverser actuation units destined for service as part of the Common Nacelle Programme for the MacDonnell Douglas DC-10 and Boeing 747 airliners. Under this programme, Rohr is providing nacelle structures for the Pratt and Whitney JT-9D Dash 59 and Dash 70 engines which are the powerplants for each aircraft respectively. Plessey PDU-100 units have been selected by Rohr for the thrust reversal system actuation in this engine and an initial order valued at more than $260,000 is already being fulfilled.

Plessey has already been successful in the highly competitive North American aerospace market having supplied DC-10 thrust reversal equipment direct to MacDonnell Douglas under repeat contracts placed with Plessey.

Instrument landing system for Muscat

Plessey Navaids has received an order £18,000 from the Sultanate of Oman for a STAN 37/38 Instrument Landing System (ILS). It will be installed at the recently opened Seeb International Airport, Muscat.

The new installation, which will operate to Category II performance standards, will consist of a 26 m wide by 3.6 m high STAN 37 localiser aerial combined with a STAN 38 sideband reference glidepath antenna.

The choice of the STAN 37/83 ILS follows the equipment's extensive promulgation to Category II performance levels at many airports throughout the world. Plessey say that the equipment is fully modular and the basic design, engineering standards and performance tolerances of all STAN 37/38 systems meet the ICAO specification for Category III facilities; indeed, the STAN 37/38 was the first equipment to be promulgated to Category III with installations at London, Heathrow, Airport and at Dulles International, Washington. This inherent integrity readily permits the upgrading of Category I and II installations to full Category III facility standards.

Plessey, who won this contract in the face of international competition, will install the equipment on a turnkey basis. They will also provide civil site works.

Lumax lamps win large export order

Ceag, manufacturers of the internationally known Lumax range of driving lamps, have just secured an export order in excess of £150,000 from Australia, with the prospect of further orders for twice that amount in six months' time. This, Ceag's biggest ever single order from Australia, was secured in the face of very strong competition from European and Far Eastern manufacturers.

Sales director, Arthur Critchley has been negotiating the contract for some six months, and says the reason for Ceag's success was the performance and design of the Lumax range. The driving and fog lamps are already very successful in Europe, and the recently introduced Halogen Twin Pack has received much favourable comment for its aesthetic appeal.

Canadian firm buys heavy-duty grinding machine

Herbert Machine Tools Ltd. has received an order for a Churchill roll-grinding machine and an F-type heavy-duty cylindrical grinding machine for Canada.

Re-grinding rolls in a steel works is a vital operation directly affecting production. Resulting from continual use, rolls become worn and if this is not rectified the quality of the steel sheet will deteriorate. Re-grinding restores the roll to the required accuracy of roundness and shape.

The machine for Canada is fully automatic in operation. The operator simply loads the roll on to the machine and pre-sets the required conditions in the control. The roll is aligned and ground to the required profile and surface finish automatically. The number of passes of the grinding wheel along the roll is dependent on the amount of wear of the roll and is determined automatically by the machine's control system.

This is the first export order for a roll grinder fitted with the Churchill fully-automatic control system; similar machines are in service with the British Steel Corporation.

Castings for Spanish power station

APV Paramount Ltd. of Crawley, Sussex have received orders valued in total at nearly £100,000 for cast stainless steel valve parts for the nuclear power station being built at Almaraz in Spain.

These orders have been placed by Walthon Weir Pacific, SA of Zaragoza and the valves were selected by Empresarios Agrupados, the engineering and consulting group for Central Nuclear de ALMARAZ.

The castings are for various types of valves including wedge gate, check, globe and butterfly and are subject to careful non-destructive testing including radiography and dye penetrant examination.

Black and white updated

The Ghana Broadcasting Corporation are updating their television studios in Accra with an order for three Mark V Image Orthicon cameras from Marconi Communication Systems Ltd. – A GEC-Marconi Electronics company.

The order, placed through the Ghana Supply Commission, also includes vision mixers, a communication unit, spares and ancilliary units, worth over £100,000.

Marconi Communication Systems installed the original equipment in Accra in 1963, using Mark IV cameras which will now be replaced by the Mark V's.

Well over 1,700 Marconi IO cameras have been delivered throughout the world. Recently, the Egyptian organisation for broadcasting and television ordered 10 cameras as part of the re-equipping programme for their Cairo studios.

Eight channels have just been supplied to TV EsPanola for studio and OB use, and the Kuwait Ministry of Information has bought four more for the Kuwait television studios. Seventeen have also been supplied to the Turkish Radio and Television Administration.

Can-making plant for Russia

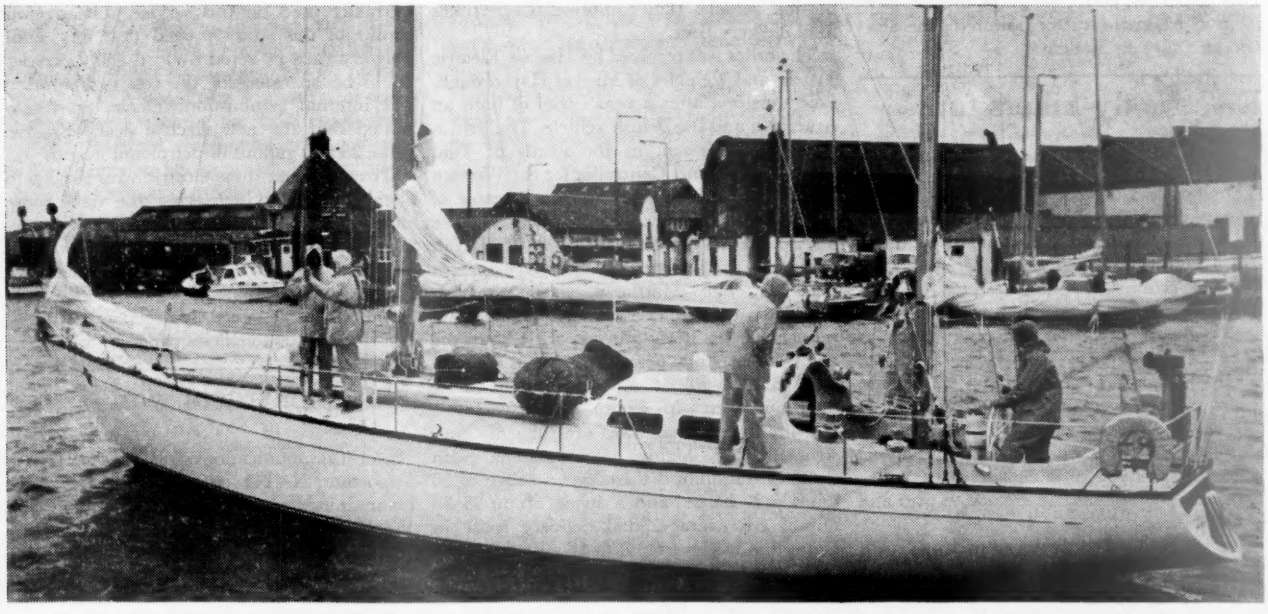
Metal Box, the British packaging company, is to supply nearly £700,000 worth of can-making equipment to Russia.

This is part of an $11 million machinery and know-how deal signed with the Russian packaging authorities by Continental Can, the USA company which is an associate of Metal Box. The deal involves the supply of five complete can-making lines, to be used in the food industry at several locations in Russia, mainly the Vladivostock area.

French buy British spray races

An order for 100 sheep spray races has been received by E. Allman & Co. Ltd., Birdham Road, Chichester, Sussex – following negotiations at the Paris Show in March. The unit is the Cooper-Allman race which will be supplied to the Cooper Co. in France – part of The Wellcome Foundation.

Up to 60 sheep per minute can be sprayed in the race, which is portable and can be operated by two men.



The latest Gallant 53 class glassfibre sailing cruiser, the ketch-rigged German-owned, *Tho*, left Poole, Dorset, recently for Antibes to begin her career as an ocean-going luxury charter yacht. The class was designed by E. G. Van de Stadt and is built exclusively by Southern Ocean Shipyard Ltd. of Poole, from hull and deck mouldings by the Tyler Boat Co. Ltd. of Kent. *Tho* has been bought by Karl Meinecke of Bremen.

King of Nepal orders HS 748

His Majesty, King Birendra of Nepal, has ordered a Hawker Siddeley Aviation HS 748 twin turbo-prop aircraft for personal use. The aircraft, which will be fitted out in a luxurious VIP configuration, will be operated by the Royal Flight of Nepal.

In addition, the aircraft will also be equipped with a wide rear freight door. This will permit conversion to alternative roles such as paratrooping and supply dropping, as required by the Royal Army of Nepal.

Two HS 748's are already operating successfully in the testing Himalayan environment with Royal Nepal Airlines. The new aircraft is scheduled for delivery in January next year.

His Majesty, King Birendra will be the fifteenth VIP operator of the HS 748. Total sales now stand at 293 aircraft.

Danish farmers to get liquid pig feeders

An order from Denmark for 22 pig feeders worth £63,000 has been received by the Lincolnshire electrical engineers N. J. Froment & Co. Ltd. of Easton, Stamford.

The pig feeders are to be delivered at the rate of four a month, beginning this month. It is estimated that the Froment systems will be sufficient to feed 55,000 pigs.

Froment's distributor in Denmark is Dansk Protekta A/S of Illerup, 4400 Kalundborg. This company also distributes the Froment range of Magnate tractor powered generators and ancillary equipment.

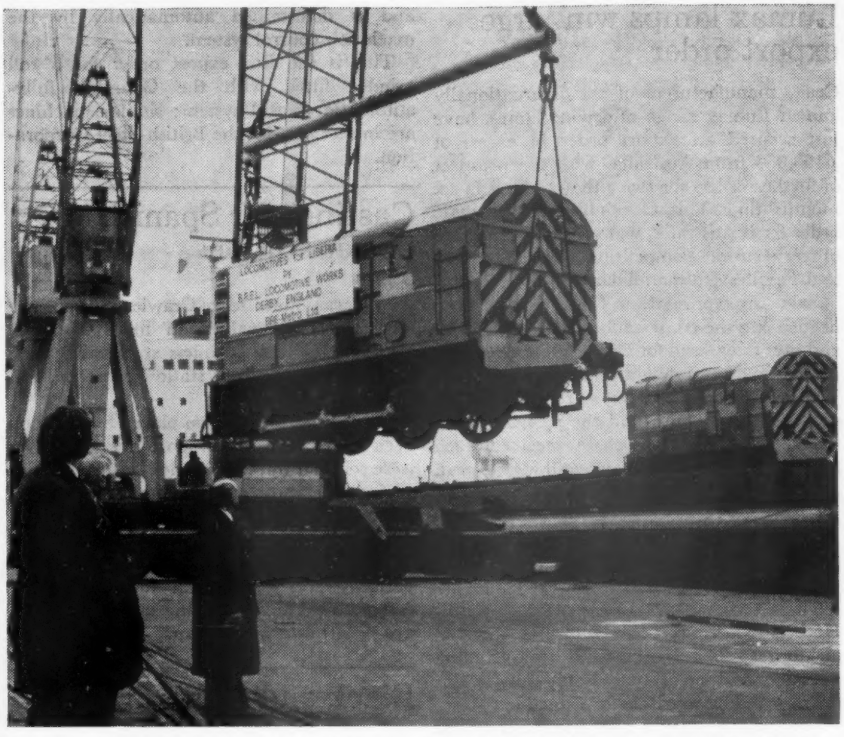
Electric fly-killers for Pakistan

A consignment of 225 Simon Insect-O-Cutor flying insect control units manufactured by the Special Products Division of Henry Simon Ltd., Stockport, has been delivered to their agent Westminster Enterprises in Lahore. The units are to be installed in shops, cafés and restaurants in towns and cities of Pakistan.

Insect-O-Cutors give off no chemicals, fumes or fall-out yet quietly and continuously kill wasps, mosquitoes, flies, gnats, moths, blue-bottles and other day and night flying insect pests. Each unit consists of a 'black light' ultra-violet lure, an electrified grid and a collecting tray.

Insects respond to the lure and fly towards the source of the 'black light', are killed instantly on the grid and drop into the collecting tray for easy removal.

Henry Simon is a Simon Engineering company.



One of four British Rail Class 08 shunting locomotives being loaded on to a vessel for Liberia. On behalf of overseas principals, Constantine Forwarding organised all the details from free alongside. This included selecting a dock for the principal's bulk carrier vessel, which also had capacity to accommodate a large mobile crane, as each of the locomotives was 32 ft. (10 m) long and weighed about 50 tons (50 t). Sleepers and rails were installed on the deck to carry the locomotives, and Constantine arranged securing of the locomotives to ensure safety during shipment.

US postal service plugs into British electric vehicles

Cupertino, near San Jose in Northern California has recently bought a fleet of 30 British-made electric mail vans, which have now replaced all the standard internal combustion vehicles that comprised Cupertino's mail delivery fleet.

The order was received by Harbilt Electric Trucks and Vehicles of Market Harborough, Leicestershire, after a year's trial of both an American and the British vehicle. The British design was chosen, in the words of Tom Martin, Transport Controller for the Western Region of the US Postal Service, 'because of its proven technology, which is far in advance of America in this field'. A team of Harbilt engineers, led by research and development manager, Bob Matthews, BEM, went to California to supervise the putting into service of the fleet, and reported that the change-over from petrol to electric delivery was made without a hitch. 'The whole operation went with a hum' he quipped. The Harbilt electric mail vans are ruggedly constructed and highly manoeuvrable with maximum visibility. They have a range of 50 miles per charge, and a speed of up to 30 m.p.h. An average mail delivery route in Cupertino ranges from 8 to 15 miles with 100 to 300 stops – a job for which an electric vehicle is admirably suited. Apart from being cheap to run with the batteries being recharged overnight, they require very little maintenance. In the trial period not only was the Harbilt mail van tested against an American prototype electric vehicle, but its running costs were compared with those of one of the internal combustion engine vans normally used on this service. The overall results of this study proved that four mail delivery vans powered by lead-acid batteries could be operated for the cost of operating one internal combustion vehicle. It is estimated that the new electric fleet will save some 23,000 gallons of petroleum a year.

Provided that these electric vans live up to their promise of delivering the mail more quietly, efficiently and with far less energy consumption than internal combustion-powered vehicles, it is expected that US Postal Service mail delivery trucks may eventually be replaced by fleets of electrics at the rate of 5,000 vehicles per year.

Nato contracts won

Racal Communications Ltd. has won two important NATO contracts for HF radio communications installations in Norway and West Germany. The orders are worth some £255,000 and were secured against keen competition from other leading international companies.

Under these contracts Racal is to supply the latest equipments in its range of transmitters, receivers and remote control systems.

ICL wins largest 2903 order so far – in Poland

ZIPO, the Data Processing Service to the United Polish Shipyards, has ordered seven 2903 computer systems, valued at £800,000. The systems will be installed in component producing factories in and around the Baltic coastal town of Gdansk, where ZIPO's main computer centre is located.

The Gdansk computer centre currently runs System 4-50 and System 4-70 computers, and an additional System 4-52 computer is installed at Szczecin, some 200 miles away.

ZIPO provides a data processing service to the four main shipyards in the Polish shipyard organisation. The largest of these is the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, the others being the North Shipyard, the Gdynia Shipyard and the Szczecin Shipyard.

The new 2903 systems will be linked to the computer centre and will be used to further extend a centralised production control system. Other application areas already undertaken by ZIPO include hull design, structural analysis, service pipe routing, analysis of pipe routing, analysis of space frames, propellor design, process control tapes, stock control and PERT.

A typical 2903 configuration will comprise 28K store, two EDS 60, eight direct data entry stations, two VDUs, two teleprinters, a card reader and a line printer. Each of the systems will also be fitted locally with Polish manufactured magnetic tape units.

Dataskil, ICL's software subsidiary is also involved in the new contract, and will provide specialised systems and programming advice.

This latest order, itself the largest single 2903 order to date in the world, brings the total value of ICL systems installed or on order at ZIPO to some £4 million.

Radio equipment for Arab countries

Rupert Neve & Co. Ltd. has received its first orders from three Arab countries, Iraq, Kuwait, and Syria.

Baghdad Radio wants 12 BCM 10/2 10-channel 2-output group transportable consoles together with monitor speakers and amplifiers. Kuwait Ministry of Education also wants a BCM 10/2 transportable console.

The Syrian order, already delivered by air freight direct to Damascus, was for six 12-input 4-output transportable consoles with five rack frames of distribution amplifiers for Damascus Radio and Television.

Telemetering system for Iraq

Tidal telemetering equipment, similar to that used by the London Port Authority, has been supplied by AGA Navigation Aids of Brentford to the Iraq Ports Authority. A control station will monitor the tidal conditions at five outstations which will enable shipping movements to be accurately controlled and advanced flood warning to be given.

The control station will be located at Basrah and three monitoring stations will be along the Shatt al Arab River and two in the Arabian Gulf. One of the Gulf outstations will be located at a deep water oil terminal.

The AGA Telemetering system includes an encoding unit attached to a float operated tide gauge, which transmits a signal over a UHF bearer channel to the control station. The signal is based on the principle of a varying pulse length, which is proportional to the rise of tide. In this way the control station receives continuous signals which are automatically measured and recorded on a tidal chart. Current speed and direction data is also transmitted to the control station by UHF signals.

AGA say the use of this telemetering system means that, not only is the turnround of tankers and other vessels controlled far more accurately but waiting time is considerably reduced. It has also ensured that ship movement in the area is far safer than before.

The complete system was assembled at the AGA factory at Brentford, Middlesex and the final items of equipment are being shipped to Basrah this month.

Label machinery for Greece

Payne-Hargreaves, the Nottingham garment label manufacturing company, is to supply Elegant label machinery to an Athens printing firm. This deal, worth over £6,000 is the company's first export order from Greece. It brings total exports of these machines to over £100,000 during the last three years.

Other machinery exports to Greece could follow, said Mr. Alan Coles, Payne-Hargreaves' product manager, reporting that in addition to production know how, the company would be supplying quantities of fabric material and inks. Yugoslavia was another potential market for Elegant machines, while in South Africa Payne-Hargreaves was setting up a complete printed label manufacturing unit for a Norprint, Boston, subsidiary in Pietermaritzburg.

Over £1 million export orders

The Fairbairn Lawson Group report several substantial overseas orders in the last few months. Fairbairn Lawson Machinery (Synthetics) Limited, a group subsidiary, has recently taken orders for woven polypropylene sack plants for export to Kuwait and Puerto Rico totalling £900,000. Greenbat Limited has taken further orders for mining locomotives for Zambian copper mines and cold forging equipment for Sweden and the USA.

Commenting on export orders, the group sales director said: 'Further substantial orders are presently being negotiated for all types of machinery and our engineering order book for 1975 is continuing to fill up satisfactorily. Production is being concentrated more and more towards exports which look like comprising some 80 per cent of this year's engineering turnover.'

Frequency changers for Singapore Docks

Four frequency changer sets, together worth £20,000, have been ordered from Brook Motors, Huddersfield, a Hawker Siddeley company, for installation in Singapore Docks. The order was placed by R. E. Morris & Co. Private Ltd., Singapore.

The four sets – two rated at 800kVA and two at 300kVA – will be used to change the shore supply frequency from 50Hz to the 60Hz required by ships docked with their own supplies turned off. The two 800kVA sets each comprise five motors, one 415V, 50Hz 3 phase cage type driving two 440V 60Hz 3 phase slip ring motors via vee-belts. Two more cage motors driving cooling blowers are connected to the pipe vented endshields on the slip-ring motors. Both slip-ring motors are connected mechanically and electrically so that their phase rotations are synchronised and output voltages equal.

West German dynamometer market breached

An order worth £115,000 has been won from MAN of Augsburg by Redman Heenan Froude for an RFA14 hydraulic dynamometer. The company claims that this is not only an important breakthrough into a difficult market but highlights the commanding position the company's products hold throughout the world. Furthermore, it is the first large dynamometer sold by RHF to MAN and it opens up the possibility of selling similar machines to this company's licencees both in Germany and elsewhere. MAN, a leading German manufacturer of diesel engines, will use the dynamometer for testing its new range of V-type high-speed diesels. These have been developed mainly for marine use but are equally suitable for performing land-based duties such as power generation.

Scama equipment for new plants in China

Orders for the supply of alarm annunciation equipment to monitor processes in eight new ureum factories to be built in the Republic of China have been placed with Scama Ltd., Eastern Way, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. The total value is £22,000.

The contracts were negotiated through Scama's agents in Holland and have been placed by the main contractors for the project, Kellogg International. They represent some 1,200 alarm points in all. the equipment specified being 'Panastat Series 70', a solid-state system. Part of the installation will be to Baseefa intrinsically safe standards.

European Community

Suspension of duties on parts for servicing aircraft

From the beginning of this year, the United Kingdom adopted wholly or partly a number of EEC Common Customs Tariff (CCT) temporary duty reductions or exemptions (suspensions) on parts imported for the maintenance and repair of aircraft. This list of CCT suspensions was drawn up by Member States of the Community, after a thorough review had taken place during 1973, and it remains in force until the end of this year. It is currently under consideration with a view to establishing a new list of suspensions to operate from 1 January 1975.

The present suspensions of duty on parts for servicing imported aircraft of an empty weight exceeding 15,000 kg are given in Schedule 1 below, and on parts for servicing imported aircraft of an empty weight exceeding 2,000 kg but not exceeding 15,000 kg in Schedule 2 below. Schedule 1 is divided into two categories: the rates shown in column A apply to parts for any aircraft constructed outside the EEC or to parts for types of Community-built aircraft certificated for the first time in the EEC before 1974; the more limited range of suspensions shown in column B applies to parts for aircraft constructed in a Member State which were certificated in the EEC after 1974.

It should be noted, however, that the suspensions or reductions of duty in relation to parts falling under tariff headings 85.15, 85.22, 90.14, 90.28 and 90.29, apply only to parts for servicing aircraft of a type certificated for the first time in a Member State of the Community before 1 January 1973.

The United Kingdom has adopted the rates shown in Annexes 1 and 2 in full, where parts are imported for use in imported aircraft constructed outside the United Kingdom. In the case of parts imported for use in British-built aircraft, the United Kingdom has moved 40 per cent towards adopting the suspended rate – the minimum change required to meet its obligations under the Treaty of Accession to align its import duties progressively towards the rates actually applied under the CCT. The precise United Kingdom tariff subheadings and rates applicable may be found in the Import Duties (Temporary Reductions and Exemptions) (No. 4) Order 1973, Statutory Instrument 2219 or in the Customs and Excise Tariff Part 12 B. II-IV.

United Kingdom producers were consulted on the current list of suspensions at the time of last year's review. However, if any United Kingdom producer considers that the supply situation has changed so that he could now meet the requirements of the whole Community for any of the listed parts used to service aircraft and that a further CCT suspension on a particular item would be detrimental to his interests, he should supply full details to the Department of Trade. Respondents should state whether or not they have been approached by the airlines or aircraft manufacturers or have themselves offered to supply the equipment concerned for particular aircraft, since the last review took place. Copies of correspondence would be useful.

In the event of producers in the United Kingdom or other Member States making any applications for the restoration of CCT duty on parts for types of aircraft operated by United Kingdom airlines, the Department of Trade will ensure that United Kingdom airlines are given an opportunity to comment.

The information requested in this notice should be sent not later than 14 June 1974 to the Department of Trade, Tariff Division, Kingsgate House (tel. 01-222 7877, ext. 5519).

SCHEDULE 1 Parts for servicing aircraft of an empty weight exceeding 15,000 kg.

Tariff heading number	Description of goods	Rate of duty A	Rate of duty B
ex 38.17	Preparations and charges for fire-extinguishers mentioned at No 84.21 of this list	Free	—
ex 39.02	Polymerisation and copolymerisation products (for example, polyethylene, polyethyaloethylenes, polyisobutylene, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl chloroacetate and other polyvinyl derivatives, polyacrylic and polymethacrylic derivatives, coumarone-indene resins etc.):		
	C. Other:		
	ex I. Polyethylene:		
	(b) In other forms	Free	—
	ex IV. Polypropylene, in one of the forms mentioned in Notes 3 (c) and 3 (d) of Chapter 39	Free	—
	VII. Polyvinyl chloride:		
	(b) In other forms	Free	—
	XIV. Other polymerisation or copolymerisation products:		
	(b) In other forms	Free	—
39.07	Articles of materials of the kinds described in heading Nos 39.01 to 39.06 inclusive:		
	E. Of other materials:		
	ex II. Other:		
	Articles for technical use and structural components	Free	—
40.09	Piping and tubing of unhardened vulcanised rubber	Free	—
40.11	Rubber tyres, tyre cases, inter-changeable tyre treads, inner tubes and tyre flaps, for wheels of all kinds:		
	ex B. Other:		
	Tyres, for aircraft, of the following types:		
	15.00 .. 16-14 ply	Free	—
	56.00 .. 16-7-32 ply	Free	—
40.14	Other articles of unhardened vulcanised rubber:		
	ex B. Other:		
	Articles for technical use	Free	—
62.05	Other made up textile articles (including dress patterns):		
	ex C. Other:		
	Life-jackets	Free	—
	Passenger escape chutes	Free	—
68.13	Fabricated asbestos and articles thereof (for example, asbestos board, thread and fabric; asbestos clothing, asbestos jointing), reinforced or not, other than goods falling within heading No. 68.14; mixtures with a basis of asbestos and mixtures with a basis of asbestos and magnesium carbonate, and articles of such mixtures:		
	B. Articles of asbestos:		
	III. Other	Free	—
68.14	Friction material (segments, discs, washers, strips, sheets, plates, rolls and the like) of a kind suitable for brakes, for clutches or the like, with a basis of asbestos, other mineral substances or of cellulose, whether or not combined with textile or other materials	Free	—
68.16	Articles of stone or of other mineral substances (including articles of peat), not elsewhere specified or included:		
	ex B. Other:		
	Filters, washers and other articles of agglomerated coal or of graphite	Free	—
ex 73.18	Tubes and pipes and blanks therefor, of iron (other than of cast iron), or steel, excluding articles under No 73.19:		
	Tubes and pipes, ready for fitting, usable as hydraulic conduits for fuel-oil or lubricants	Free	—

Tariff heading number	Description of goods	Rate of duty A	Rate of duty B
73.20	Tube and pipe fittings (for example, joints elbows, unions and flanges), of iron or steel	Free	Free
ex 73.24	Containers of iron and steel for compressed or liquefied gas: Containers intended for pressurisation	Free	—
ex 73.25	Stranded wire, cables, cordage, ropes, plaited bands, slings and the like, of iron or steel wire, but excluding insulated electric cables: Steel cables for flight controls, ready for fitting	Free	—
73.32	Bolts and nuts (including bolt ends and screw studs), whether or not threaded or tapped, and screws (including screw hooks and screw rings), of iron or steel; rivets, cotters, cotter-pins, washers and spring washers, of iron or steel	Free	Free
73.35	Springs and leaves for springs, of iron or steel	Free	—
73.40	Other articles of iron or steel:		
	ex B. Other: Collars, flanges and other devices for fixing, jointing, clamping or spacing	Free	—
	Apparatus for cargo stowage	Free	—
ex 76.02	Wrought bars, rods, angles, shapes and sections, of aluminium; aluminium wire: Shapes bearing a specific manufacture number	Free	—
ex 76.03	Wrought plates, sheets and strip, of aluminium of a thickness exceeding 0.20 mm: Plates bearing a specific manufacture number	Free	—
ex 76.06	Tubes and pipes and blanks therefore, of aluminium; hollow bars of aluminium: Tubes and pipes, ready for fitting, usable as hydraulic conduits or as conduits for fuel-oil or lubricants	Free	—
76.07	Tube and pipe fittings (for example, joints, elbows, sockets and flanges), of aluminium	Free	—
76.16	Other articles of aluminium: C. Nails, tacks, staples, hook-nails, spiked cramps, spikes and the like; bolts, nuts, screws and similar articles, washers and spring washers	Free	—
	ex D. Other: Collars, flanges and other devices for fixing, jointing, clamping or spacing	Free	—
81.04	Other base metals, unwrought or wrought, and articles thereof; cermets, unwrought or wrought, and articles thereof: K. Titanium: ex II. Wrought: Bolts, nuts, screws, rivets and similar articles, complying with US standards	Free	4%
ex 83.02	Base metal fittings and mountings of a kind suitable for furniture, doors, staircases, windows, blinds, coachwork, saddlery, trunks, caskets and the like (including automatic door closers); base metal hat-racks, hat-pegs, brackets and the like: Automatic door-closing devices and fittings and hinges of all kinds	Free	—
83.07	Lamps and lighting fittings, of base metal, and parts thereof, of base metal (excluding switches, electric lamp holders, electric lamps for vehicles, electric battery or magneto lamps, and other articles falling within Chapter 85 except heading No. 85.22)	Free	Free
ex 83.09	Clasps, frames with clasps for handbags and the like, buckles, buckle-clasps, hooks, eyes, eylets, and the like, of base metal, of a kind commonly used for clothing, travel goods, handbags, or other textile or leather goods; tubular rivets and bifurcated rivets, of base metal: Tubular rivets	Free	Free
	Bifurcated rivets	Free	—
ex 84.07	Hydraulic engines and motors (including water wheels and water turbines): Hydraulic engines and motors (excluding water wheels and water turbines)	Free	Free
84.08	Other engines and motors: B. Gas turbines: II. Other	Free	—
	C. Other engines and motors	Free	Free
	D. Parts: II. Other: Of gas turbines under reference B II	Free	—
	Of other engines and motors under reference C	Free	—
84.10	Pumps (including motor pumps and turbo-pumps) for liquids, whether or not fitted with measuring devices; liquid elevators of bucket, chain, screw, band and similar kinds: B. Other pumps.: I. Pumps having a pressure capacity of 20 bars or more	Free	—
	II. Other pumps or pumps not specified	Free	Free
	III. Parts: Of pumps referred to in I	Free	—
	Of pumps referred to in II	Free	Free
84.11	Air-pumps, vacuum pumps and air or gas compressors (including motor and turbo-pumps and compressors, and free-piston generators for gas turbines); fans, blowers and the like: A. Pumps and compressors: II. Vacuum pumps creating a vacuum better than 10^{-3} torr, centrifugal or axial compressors giving a compression ratio of not less than 2 and a flow of more than 3,000 m^3 per minute; stationary reciprocating compressors of a weight exceeding 2,000 kg	Free	—
	III. Other pumps and compressors	Free	Free
	ex IV. Parts: Of pumps and compressors referred to in II	Free	—
	Of pumps and compressors referred to in III	Free	Free
	C. Fans, blowers and the like	Free	Free
84.15	Refrigerators and refrigerating equipment (electrical and other): A. Evaporators and condensers, excluding those for domestic refrigerators	Free	—
	ex B. Other: Compression refrigerating equipment, specially designed for cooling air inside aircraft	Free	—
84.17	Machinery, plant and similar laboratory equipment, whether or not electrically heated, for the treatment of materials by a process involving a change of temperature such as heating, cooking, roasting, distilling; rectifying, sterilising, pasteurising; steaming, drying, evaporating, vapourising, condensing or cooling; not being machinery or plant of a kind used for domestic purposes; instantaneous or storage water heaters, non-electrical: C. Heat exchange units	Free	Free
84.18	Centrifuges, filtering and purifying machinery and apparatus (other than filter funnels, milk strainers and the like), for liquids or gases: C. Other: II. Machinery and apparatus (other than centrifuges) for filtering or purifying liquids or gases: For liquids	Free	Free
	For gases	Free	—
ex 84.21	Mechanical appliances (whether or not hand operated) for projecting, dispersing or spraying liquids or powders; fire extinguishers (charged or not); spray guns and similar appliances; steam or sand blasting machines and similar jet projecting machines: Fire extinguishers for jet engines for fixing permanently in aeroplanes	Free	—
	Their parts	Free	—
84.22	Lifting, handling, loading or unloading machinery, telphers and conveyors (for example lifts, hoists, winches, cranes, transportor cranes, jacks, pulley tackle, belt conveyors and teleferics), not being machinery falling within heading No. 84.23: ex D. Other: Jacks	Free	—
	Parts of jacks	Free	—
	Lifting; loading and unloading machinery for fixing permanently in aeroplanes	Free	—
ex 84.53	Automatic data processing machines and units thereof; magnetic or optical readers, machines for transcribing data on to data media in coded form and machines for processing such data, not elsewhere specified or included: Computers forming part of the navigation instruments or apparatus of No. 90.28, used exclusively to carry out the calculations appropriate to those instruments or apparatus	Free	—
84.55	Parts and accessories (other than covers, carrying cases and the like) suitable for use solely or principally with machines of a kind falling within heading No. 84.51, 84.52, 84.53 or 84.54: ex C. Other: Parts and accessories for computers falling within No. ex 84.53 of this list	Free	—
84.59	Machines and mechanical appliances having individual functions, not falling within any other heading of this Chapter: ex E. Other: Air humidifiers and dehumidifiers	Free	Free
	Starter motors, propeller regulators (valves) and servo-mechanisms	Free	—
	Windscreen wipers	Free	Free
	Parts: Of starter motors, propeller regulators and servo-mechanisms	Free	—
	Of the other apparatus referred to above	Free	Free
84.61	Taps cocks, valves and similar appliances, for pipes, boiler shells, tanks, vats and the like, including pressure reducing valves and thermostatically controlled valves: A. Pressure reducing valves	Free	—
	B. Others	Free	Free
84.62	Ball, roller or needle roller bearings	Free	—
ex 84.63	Transmission shafts, cranks, bearing housings, plain shaft bearings, gears and gearing (including friction gears and gear-boxes and other variable speed gears), flywheels, pulleys and pulley blocks, clutches and shaft couplings: Transmission shafts, cranks, bearing housings and plain shaft bearings for engines	Free	Free
	Other	Free	—
84.64	Gaskets and similar joints of metal sheeting combined with other materials (for example, asbestos, felt and paperboard) or of laminated metal foil; sets or assortments of gaskets and similar joints, dissimilar in composition, for engines, pipes, tubes and the like, put up in pouches, envelopes or similar packings	Free	—
84.65	Machinery parts, not containing electrical connectors, insulators, coils, contacts or other electrical features and not falling within any other heading in this Chapter	Free	—
85.01	Electrical goods of the following descriptions: generators, motors, convertors (rotary or static), transformers, rectifiers and rectifying apparatus, inductors	Free	—
85.02	Electro-magnets; permanent magnets and article of special materials for permanent magnets, being blanks of such magnets; electro-magnetic and permanent magnet chucks, clamps, vices and similar work holders; electro-magnetic clutches and couplings; electro-magnetic brakes; electro-magnetic lifting heads	Free	—
85.08	Electrical starting and ignition equipment for internal combustion engines (including ignition magnetos, magneto-dynamos, ignition coils, starter motors, sparking plugs, and glow plugs); generators (dynamos and alternators) and cut-outs for use in conjunction with such engines: A. Starter motors, generators and cut-outs: Starter motors for aircraft	Free	Free
	Other	Free	—
	B. Ignition magnetos, including magneto-dynamos and magnetic flywheels	Free	—
	C. Glow plugs	Free	—
	D. Other	Free	—

European Communities continued

Tariff heading number	Description of goods	Rate of duty A	Rate of duty B
85.12	Electric instantaneous or storage water heaters and immersion heaters; electric soil heating apparatus and electric space heating apparatus; electric hair dressing appliances (for example, hair dryers, hair curlers, curling tong heaters) and electric smoothing irons; electro-thermic domestic appliances; electric heating resistors, other than those of carbon:		
	ex B. Electrical apparatus for heating aeroplanes and wing surfaces, mounted on propeller aeroplanes	Free	—
85.14	Microphones and stands therefor, loudspeakers, audio-frequency electrical amplifiers	Free	—
85.15	Radiotelegraphic and radiotelephonic transmission and reception apparatus; radio-broadcasting and television transmission and reception apparatus (including receivers incorporating sound recorders or reproducers) and television cameras; radio navigational aid apparatus, radar apparatus and radio remote control apparatus:		
	A. Radiotelegraphic and radiotelephonic transmission and reception apparatus; radio-broadcasting and television transmission and reception apparatus (including receivers incorporating sound recorders or reproducers) and television cameras:		
	I. Transmitters	Free	—
	II. Transmitter-receivers	Free	8%
	ex III. Receivers, whether or not combined with a sound recorder or reproducer, excluding radio-broadcasting or television apparatus	Free	8%
	B. Other apparatus	Free	8%
	ex C. Parts:		
	II. Parts of base metal, obtained by turning bars, angles, shapes, sections or wire, of solid section, the greatest diameter of which does not exceed 25 mm:		
	Of transmitters under A I	Free	8%
	Of other apparatus referred to above	Free	8%
	III. Other:		
	Of transmitters under A I	Free	8%
	Of other apparatus referred to above	Free	8%
85.17	Electric sound or visual signalling apparatus (such as bells, sirens, indicator panels, burglar and fire alarms), other than those of heading No. 85.09 or 85.16	Free	—
85.18	Electrical capacitors, fixed or variable	Free	—
85.19	Electrical apparatus for making and breaking electrical circuits, for the protection of electrical circuits, or for making connections to or in electrical circuits (for example, switches, relays, fuses, lightning arresters, surge suppressors, plugs, lampholders and junction boxes); resistors, fixed or variable (including potentiometers), other than heating [resistors; printed circuits; switchboards (other than telephone switchboards) and control panels.	Free	—
85.20	Electric filament lamps and electric discharge lamps (including infra-red and ultra-violet lamps); arc-lamps; electrically ignited photographic flash-bulbs:		
	A. Filament lamps for lighting	Free	—
	ex B. Other:		
	Discharge lamps and tubes for lighting including combined filament and discharge lamps and tubes	Free	—
85.21	Thermionic, cold cathode and photo-cathode valves and tubes (including vapour or gas filled valves and tubes, cathode-ray tubes, television camera tubes and mercury arc rectifying valves and tubes); photocells; mounted piezo-electric crystals; diodes, transistors and similar semi-conductor devices; electronic microcircuits:		
	A. Valves and tubes	Free	—
	B. Photocells, including phototransistors	Free	—
	C. Mounted piezo-electric crystals	Free	—
85.22	Electrical appliances and apparatus, having individual functions, not falling within any other heading of this Chapter:		
	ex C. Other:		
	Engine pressure indicators	Free	—
ex 85.23	Insulated (including enamelled or anodised) electric wire, cable, bars, strip and the like (including coaxial cable); whether or not fitted with connectors:		
	Electric cables in the form of a harness, ready for fitting	Free	—
85.28	Electrical parts of machinery and apparatus, not being goods falling within any of the preceding headings of this Chapter	Free	—
90.08	Cinematographic cameras, projectors, sound recorders and sound reproducers; any combination of these articles:		
	B. Projectors and sound reproducers, combined or not	Free	—
90.14	Surveying (including photogrammetrical surveying), hydrographic, navigational, meteorological, hydrological and geophysical instruments; compasses; rangefinders:		
	A. Compasses	Free	—
	ex B. Other:		
	Instruments and apparatus for air navigation	Free	Free
	Meteorological instruments and rangefinders	Free	—
ex 90.18	Mechano-therapy appliances; massage apparatus; psychological aptitude-testing apparatus; artificial respiration, ozone therapy, oxygen therapy, aerosol therapy or similar apparatus; breathing appliances (including gas masks and similar respirators):		
	Oxygen masks; respiratory apparatus for the crew and passengers of aeroplanes	Free	—
90.24	Instruments and apparatus for measuring, checking or automatically controlling the flow, depth, pressure or other variables of liquids or gases, or for automatically controlling temperature (for example, pressure gauges, thermostats, level gauges, flow meters, heat meters, automatic overdraught regulators), not being articles falling within heading No. 90.14	Free	—
90.28	Electrical measuring, checking, analysing, or automatically controlling instruments and apparatus	Free	—
ex 90.29	Parts or accessories suitable for use solely or principally with one or more of the articles falling within heading No. 90.23, 90.24, 90.26, 90.27 or 90.28	Free	—
ex 91.06	Time switches with clock or watch movement (including secondary movement) or with synchronous motor:		
	Clock movements used in automatic systems	Free	—
91.11	Other clock and watch parts:		
	ex F. Other:		
	Of apparatus included in No. ex 91.06 of this list	Free	—
92.11	Gramophones, dictating machines and other sound recorders and reproducers, including record-players and tape decks, with or without sound-heads; television image and sound recorders and reproducers, magnetic:		
	A. Sound recorders and reproducers:		
	ex I. Cockpit recording apparatus	Free	—
ex 92.13	Other parts and accessories of apparatus falling within heading No. 92.11 ex A I of this list	Free	—
94.01	Chairs and other seats (other than those falling within heading No. 94.02), whether or not convertible into beds, and parts thereof:		
	ex A. Specially designed for aircraft:		
	Specially designed seats for the crew	Free	Free
	Parts of seats specially designed for the crew	Free	Free

SCHEDULE 2 **Parts for servicing aircraft, including helicopters, of an empty weight exceeding 2,000 kg but not exceeding 15,000 kg.**

Tariff heading number	Description of goods	Rate of duty
62.05	Other made up textile articles (including dress patterns):	
	ex C. Other:	
	Life-jackets	Free
	Passenger escape chutes	Free
73.20	Tube and pipe fittings (for example, joints, elbows, unions and flanges), of iron or steel	Free
ex 73.24	Containers, of iron or steel, for compressed or liquefied gas:	
	Containers intended for pressurisation	Free
73.32	Bolts and nuts (including bolt ends and screw studs), whether or not threaded or tapped, and screws (including screw hooks and screw rings), of iron or steel; rivets, cotters, cotter-pins, washers and spring washers, of iron or steel	Free
81.04	Other base metals, unwrought or wrought, and articles thereof; cermets, unwrought or wrought, and articles thereof:	
	K. Titanium:	
	ex II. Other wrought:	
	Bolts, nuts, screws, rivets and similar articles, complying with US standards	4%
83.07	Lamps and lighting fittings, of base metal, and parts thereof, of base metal (excluding switches, electrical lamp holders, electric lamps for vehicles, electric battery or magneto lamps, and other articles falling within Chapter 85 except heading no. 85.22)	Free
ex 83.09	Clasps, frames with clasps for handbags and the like, buckles, buckle-claps, hooks, eyes, eyelets, and the like, of base metal, of kind commonly used for clothing, travel goods, handbags, or other textile or leather goods; tubular rivets and bifurcated rivets, of base metal:	
	Tubular rivets	Free
ex 84.07	Hydraulic engines and motors (including water wheels and water turbines):	
	Hydraulic engines and motors (excluding water wheels and water turbines)	Free
84.08	Other engines and motors	
	C. Other engines and motors	Free
84.10	Pumps (including motor pumps and turbo pumps) for liquids, whether or not fitted with measuring devices; liquid elevators of bucket, chain, screw, band and similar kinds:	
	B. Other pumps:	
	II. Pumps not specified	Free
	ex III. Parts of the pumps of subheading B. II	Free

Tariff heading number	Description of goods	Rate of duty
84.11	Air pumps, vacuum pumps and air or gas compressors (including motor and turbo pumps and compressors, and free-piston generatots for gas turbines); fans, blowers and the like:	
	A. Pumps and compressors:	
	III. Other pumps and compressors	Free
	ex IV. Parts of pumps and compressors mentioned under subheading A. III	Free
	C. Fans, blowers and the like	Free
84.17	Machinery, plant and similar laboratory equipment, whether or not electrically heated, for the treatment of materials by a process involving a change of temperature such as heating, cooking, roasting, distilling, rectifying, sterilising, pasteurising, steaming, drying, evaporating, vapourising, condensing or cooling, not being machinery or plant of a kind used for domestic purposes; instantaneous or storage water heaters, non-electrical:	
	C. Heat exchange units	Free
84.18	Centrifuges; filtering and purifying machinery and apparatus (other than filter funnels, milk strainers and the like), for liquids or gases:	
	C. Other:	
	ex II. Machinery and apparatus (other than centrifuges) for filtering or purifying liquids or gases:	
	Apparatus for filtering liquids	Free
84.22	Lifting, handling, loading or unloading machinery, telphers and conveyors (for example lifts, hoists, winches, cranes, transporter cranes, jacks, pulley tackle, belt conveyors and telpherics), not being machinery falling within heading no. 84.23:	
	ex D. Other:	
	Lifting: loading and unloading machinery for fixing permanently in aeroplanes	Free
84.59	Machines and mechanical appliances, having individual functions, not falling within any other heading of this Chapter:	
	ex E. Other:	
	Air humidifiers and dehumidifiers	Free
	Starter motors, propeller regulators (valves) and auxiliary mechanisms	Free
	Windscreen wipers	Free
	Parts, not elsewhere specified or included, of the equipment listed herein	Free
84.61	Taps, cocks, valves and similar appliances, for pipes, boiler shells, tanks, vats and the like, including pressure reducing valves and thermostatically controlled valves:	
	A. Pressure reducing valves	Free
ex 84.63	Transmission shafts, cranks, bearing housings, plain shaft bearings, gears and gearing (including friction gears and gear-boxes and other variable speed gears), flywheels, pulleys and pulley blocks, clutches and shaft couplings:	
	Transmission shafts, cranks and crank shafts, bearing housings and plain shaft bearings, for engines	Free
85.08	Electrical starting and ignition equipment for internal combustion engines (including ignition magnetos, magneto-dynamos, ignition coils, starter motors, sparking plugs, and glow plugs); generators (dynamos and alternators) and cut-outs for use in conjunction with such engines:	
	ex A. Starter motors, generators and cut-outs:	
	Starter motors	Free
85.15	Radiotelegraphic and tadiotelephonic transmission and reception apparatus; radio-broadcasting and television transmission and reception apparatus (including receivers incorporating sound recorders or reproducers) and television cameras; radio navigational aid apparatus, radar apparatus and radio remote control apparatus:	
	A. Radiotelegraphic and radiotelephonic transmission and reception apparatus; radio-broadcasting and television transmission and reception apparatus (including receivers incorporating sound recorders or reproducers) and television cameras:	
	II. Transmitter-receivers	8%
	ex III. Receivers, whether or not combined with a sound recorders of reproducer, excluding radio-broadcasting or television apparatus	8%
	B. Other apparatus	8%
	C. Parts:	
	II. Parts of base metal, obtained by turning bars, angles, shapes, sections or wire, of solid section, the greatest diameter of which does not exceed 25 mm	8%
	III. Other	8%
90.14	Surveying (including photogrammetrical surveying) hydrographic, navigational, meteorological, hydrological and geophysical instruments; compasses; rangefinders:	
	ex B. Other:	
	Instruments and apparatus for air navigation	Free
94.01	Chairs and other seats (other than those falling within heading no. 94.02), whether or not convertible into beds, and parts thereof:	
	ex A. Specially designed for aircraft:	
	Specially designed seats for the air crew	Free
	Parts of seats specially designed for the air crew	Free

Generalised Tariff Preference Scheme (GSP): restoration of normal duties

Trade and Industry of 28 March and 25 April gave details of GSP tariff quotas exhausted and GSP ceilings reached up to 15 April. HM Customs have stated that the position on the restoration of normal duties for the month ending 13 May is as follows:

I TARIFF QUOTAS

Tariff heading	Description of goods	Customs quota reference*	Date UK quota share exhausted	Community Butoir reached. Duty to be re-imposed	
				On date	For goods from
42.02 A	Travel goods etc. – of artificial plastic sheeting	1588	29.3.74	10.5.74	Hong Kong
42.02 B	Travel goods etc. – of other materials	1596	1.5.74		
51.04	Woven fabrics of man-made fibres	3465	21.3.74	10.5.74	South Korea
55.05 B II	Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale:				
	Other:				
	Measuring per single yarn per kg:				
	More than 14,000 m and up to 40,000 m	3511	26.4.74		
	More than 40,000 m and up to 80,000 m	3538	9.5.74		
ex 59.09 A II	Other woven fabrics of cotton				
	Other:				
	Unbleached, of a width of:				
	More than 115 cm up to 165 cm	3708	29.1.74	30.4.74	India
	Other than unbleached	3724	22.1.74	30.4.74	Mexico
60.04 B	Undergarments, knitted or crocheted, not elastic nor rubberised:				
	Of other textile materials	4061		30.4.74	South Korea
61.01	Men's and boys' outer garments:				
	Of woven fabrics of cotton	4126	17.4.74		
85.10 B	Portable electric battery and magneto lamps, other than lamps falling within heading No. 85.09:				
	Other	4908	17.4.74	10.5.74	Hong Kong
85.21 D	Diodes, transistors and similar semi-conductor devices; electronic micro circuits	4924	3.5.74		
E	Parts				
94.01 B	Chairs and other seats (other than those falling within heading No. 94.02) whether or not convertible into beds and parts thereof:				
	Other	5067		20.4.74	Yugoslavia
98.15	Vacuum flasks and other vacuum vessels, complete with cases; parts thereof, other than glass inworks	5229		20.4.74	Hong Kong

* See Customs Tariff Part II.

European Communities continued

II CEILINGS

Tariff No.	Description of goods	Date of restoration of duties: From all sources	Date of restoration of duties: From particular sources (inner ceilings)
54.03	Flax or ramie yarn, not put up for retail sale		Brazil – 3.5.74
70.12	Glass inners for vacuum flasks or for other vacuum vessels		Yugoslavia – 3.5.74
70.14	Illuminating glassware, signalling glassware and optical elements of glass, not optically worked nor of optical glass		Yugoslavia – 3.5.74

Inquiries about current availability of preferences may be made to HM Customs Central Tariff Quota Registration Unit, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3 7HE. Tel: 01-626 1515, ext. 2570 (Quotas and Butoirs), ext. 2294 (ceilings and inner ceilings).

EEC Information Unit

The DTI's EEC Information Unit helps firms of all types and sizes by answering general questions about the effects of entry into the EEC and by guiding them where necessary to more specialised information sources. New customers are always welcome, particularly firms new to EEC questions.

The Unit's address is: EEC Information Unit, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET. Tel: 01-222 7877 ext. 3591 for publications; extensions 5377, 5479, 5480 or 3579 for questions on EEC matters.

Authorised Customs offices for Community transit operations

The EEC Commission's List of Authorised Customs Offices for Community Transit Operations (revised 1 July 1973), which lists the Community Transit offices in the Nine Member States of the European Economic Community, is now available from the Government Bookshop, HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH (tel: 01-928 6977), price £8.09, excluding postage.

New EC Legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' as indicated against each item. The 'Official Journal' is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as exports are concerned, is available from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY: The texts of the following Regulations and Decisions which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Animal health. Decision 74/210/EEC amending Decision 74/143/EEC concerning certain measures to prevent the spread of foot-and-mouth disease. (*Official Journal* L112, 25 April 1974)

Silk and silkworms. Regulation (EEC) 1066/74 fixing the amount of aid in respect of silkworms for the 1974/75 rearing year. (*Official Journal* L120, 1 May 1974)

Dehydrated fodder. Regulation (EEC) 1067/74 on the common organisation of the market in dehydrated fodder. (*Official Journal* L120, 1 May 1974)

Regulation (EEC) 1068/74 fixing the production aid for dehydrated fodder for the 1974/75 marketing year. (*Official Journal* L120, 1 May 1974)

Fruit and vegetables. Regulation (EEC) 1069/74 fixing the basic prices and buying-in prices for the 1974/75 marketing year. (*Official Journal* L120, 1 May 1974)

Cereals and rice. Regulation 1070/74 amending Regulation (EEC) 224/73 laying down general rules concerning the components designed to ensure, within the cereals and rice sectors, the protection of the processing industry, and fixing those components in respect of the new Member States. (*Official Journal* L120, 1 May 1974)

Decision 74/223/EEC on the special Rice Section of the Advisory Committee on Cereals. (*Official Journal* L123, 6 May 1974)

Oils, fats and oilseeds. Decision 74/219/EEC on the Advisory Committee on Oils and Fats. (*Official Journal* L123, 6 May 1974)

Fresh and processed fruit and vegetables. Decision 74/222/EEC on the Advisory Committee on Fresh and Processed Fruit and Vegetables. (*Official Journal* L123, 6 May 1974)

Francois-Xavier Ortolli, President of the European Commission, with Tony Benn (right), Secretary of State for Industry, in Mr. Benn's office last week. Discussions included industrial and regional development.

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 1143/74 laying down implementing provisions and fixing the amount of subsidies for wine products similar to the wine product exported under the label of 'Cyprus Sherry' produced in the Community as originally constituted and consigned to Ireland or to the United Kingdom. (*Official Journal* L126, 8 May 1974)

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 1084/74 linking the importation of frozen beef and veal to the sale of meat held by the intervention agencies. (*Official Journal* L121, 3 May 1974)

Regulation (EEC) 1098/74 amending Regulation (EEC) 2637/70 as regards the period of validity of import licences for beef and veal. (*Official Journal* L122, 4 May 1974)

Regulation (EEC) 1099/74 amending the detailed rules for the application of the monetary compensatory amounts for beef and veal. (*Official Journal* L122, 4 May 1974)

Regulation (EEC) 1100/74 amending by way of protective measure the trade arrangements for calves and veal. (*Official Journal* L122, 4 May 1974)

Regulation (EEC) 1162/74 concerning the sale of beef and veal held by the intervention agencies at prices fixed in advance at a standard rate. (*Official Journal* L127, 9 May 1974)

Sugar. Decision 74/220/EEC on the Advisory Committee on Sugar. (*Official Journal* L123, 6 May 1974)

Tobacco. Decision 74/221/EEC on the Advisory Committee on Raw Tobacco. (*Official Journal* L123, 6 May 1974)

Pigmeat. Regulation (EEC) 1159/74 adopting exceptional support measures for the market in pigmeat. (*Official Journal* L127, 9 May 1974)

Animal feedingstuffs. Correction: The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L121, 3 May 1974, contains the text of a correction to Directive 74/203/EEC establishing Community methods of analysis for the official control of feedingstuffs (published in *Official Journal* L108, 1 May 1974), as follows:

Page 14, Annex II, part 1, 'Determination of amprolium', 5.2:

instead of: 'Then centrifuge for 3 minutes and decant solutions A and B in 50 ml conical flasks (4.1)'.

read: 'Then centrifuge for 3 minutes in order to obtain a clear solution and decant solutions A and B in 50 ml conical flasks (4.1)'.

EEC information – Inquiry points at Customs and Excise headquarters

General inquiries on EEC matters which are the concern of HM Customs and Excise may be made to the following telephone extensions:
HM Customs and Excise, King's Beam House, 39-41 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE. Tel: 01-626 1515

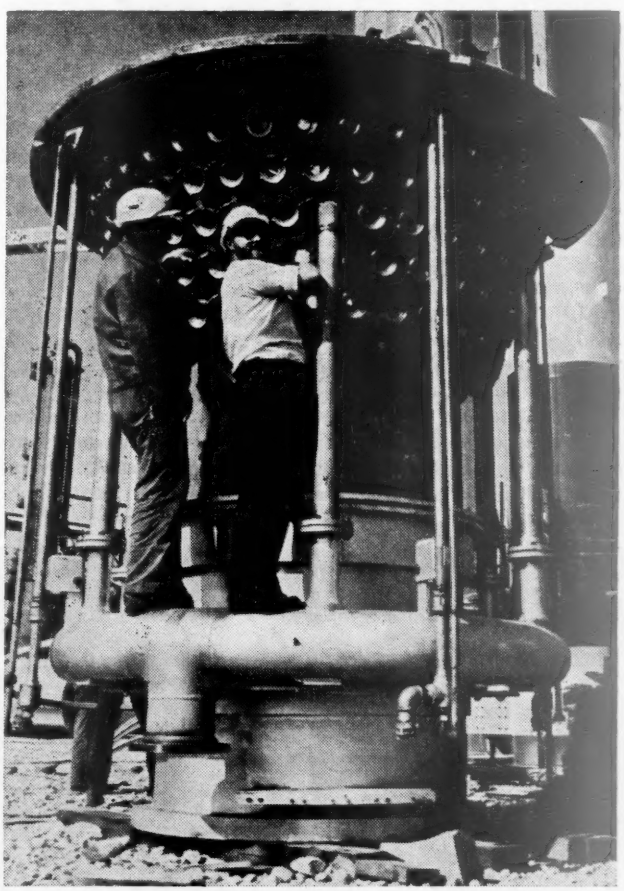
		Extn.
Community Transit	International Customs Division D —Branch 1	
	traders A-K	2263
	traders L-Z	2561
European Communities—general inquiries	International Customs Division D —Branch 4	3055
EEC Free Trade Agreements with EFTA countries	International Customs Division E —Branch 4	2385/2165
EEC Mediterranean Agreements, except Greece and Turkey, Anglo-Danish free trade agreement	International Customs Division E —Branch 4	2165
EEC Mediterranean Agreements, Greece and Turkey	International Customs Division D —Branch 2	2561
Anglo-Irish Free Trade Agreement, Channel Islands, Isle of Man	International Customs Division E —Branch 4	2504
Compensatory levies	International Customs Division G —Branch 3	2343/2307
Copies of public notices and customs forms on EEC matters	General Services Division—Unit 4	3079/2069

Applications for copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

TARIFF QUOTAS: The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L114, 27 April 1974, contains the text of Decision 74/213/EEC derogating from High Authority Recommendation No. 1/64 concerning an increase in the protective duty on iron and steel products at the external frontiers of the Community.

This Decision sets up a quota for the import into the UK of 50,000 metric tons of iron and steel coils for re-rolling (Common Customs Tariff heading 73.08) at a nil rate of duty, for the period ending 30 June 1974.

Further information. Department of Trade, Tariff Division, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ (tel. 01-222 7877).



Flaregas engineers check one of the largest anti-pollutant flare tips before being hoisted to the top of a 400-ft. flarestack in Southern Europe. Flaregas Engineering Ltd., West Drayton, Middlesex, has gained the Queen's Award to Industry for 1974 for export achievement. The Flaregas system is 100 per cent British and provides for export engineering products which, until recently, had been the virtual monopoly of a major American company. Flaregas smokeless systems have been supplied to refineries in France, Belgium, Italy, Sicily, Scandinavia, Spain, Turkey, Chile, Japan and the United States. Commonwealth countries who have ordered systems include Australia, India and Canada.

Trade Information

Closer co-operation with Bulgaria

The improving prospects for the development of trade and industrial co-operation with Bulgaria were highlighted by the five-day official visit to the United Kingdom by Ivan Nedev, Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Trade. The main object of the visit was the signature of the new Co-operation Agreement.

The Agreement, which was signed on 14 May, is similar to the Co-operation Agreement signed earlier this month with the USSR, and provides a framework for the encouragement of all forms of economic, industrial, scientific and technological co-operation.

The Agreement refers in particular to opportunities for co-operation in the following industrial sectors: agricultural machinery, chemical industry, construction industry, electronics and electronic components, engineering industry, food processing and packaging, light industry including office machinery, machine tools, mechanical handling and containerisation, and the metallurgical industries.

Mr. Nedev exchanged views with Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, as well as his host, Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, on the prospects for the development of bilateral trade and industrial co-operation.

During the trade discussions Mr. Nedev confidently forecast that two-way trade between the United Kingdom and Bulgaria should exceed $100 million in 1974. Mr. Shore also expressed the view that the present level of bilateral trade was too low but he hoped that the new Co-operation Agreement would stimulate its rapid growth.

Mr. Nedev made a short industrial tour of north-west England, including visits to a textile machinery factory and a mechanised beef cattle unit. Mr. Nedev, who was accompanied by Mr. A. Lukanov, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, also met representatives of several organisations negotiating commercial agreements with Bulgaria, and paid calls on Ministers at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Trade between the United Kingdom and Bulgaria increased by 38 per cent in 1973 and United Kingdom exports rose by 40 per cent to £13.1 million. Bulgarian exports to the United Kingdom increased by 34 per cent to £9.3 million last year. Up to the end of March this year, two-way trade has been virtually in balance.

(in £'000's)

	1971	1972	1973	1974 Jan-Mar. (provisional)
UK exports	10,267	9,389	13,148	3,385
UK imports	8,193	6,944	9,340	3,440

Yugoslavia: closure of Zagreb airport

Zagreb airport will be closed from 24 June to 26 August 1974 to enable major reconstruction work on the main runway and other improvements to airport facilities to be carried out. During the closure period commercial air traffic for Zagreb will be diverted to Ljubljana airport which is about 100 miles (by road) west of Zagreb. (This notice was published in *Trade and Industry*, 25 April 1974: the British Embassy in Belgrade has asked for it to be repeated.) **CRE ext. 5338**

Benelux and Czechoslovakia: trade quotas for 1974

Quota lists for the exchange of goods between the Benelux countries and Czechoslovakia during 1974 were published in the Dutch journal *Wereldmarkt* No. 18, 2 May 1974. A copy of the text, in Dutch, is available on request: applications from British exporters should be addressed to OTAR (b) Section, Export Data Branch. **EDB ext. 288/466/467**

Ivan Nedev, Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Trade (left), and Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, with Lord Goronwy-Roberts, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (right), signing the 10-year Agreement between the United Kingdom and Bulgaria on the development of economic, industrial, scientific and technological co-operation.

Applications for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade is considering applications for the temporary exemption from import duty of the materials listed below on the grounds that these materials are not made in this country or the Commonwealth or the supply available from these sources is not substantial having regard to the existing United Kingdom demand.

Representations are invited from manufacturers in this country or agents of Commonwealth manufacturers who consider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in a position to supply a substantial proportion of the United Kingdom demand for these materials, or who are interested in their future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the Treasury Order in which the materials are specified and normally continue until the end of the current calendar year, when they are reviewed.

Interested parties who wish to make representations should address them to Tariff Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, preferably through a Trade Association, giving the respective reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption. Representations should be received by 6 June.

Tariff heading	Proposed definition for tariff purposes	Applied for as	Exemption required until	Reference
29.25	Acetanilide	as in previous column	31 December 1974	15120
38.19	Products containing more than 99.9 per cent by weight of silicon and in forms covered by Note 2(g) to Chapter 38	Silicon slices	31 December 1974	13462

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Tel. 01-222 7877 (extension at end of each notice)

EDB Export Data Branch, Export Services Division
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

NOTICE TO IMPORTERS

1974 imports of cotton yarn from Egypt, Hong Kong, India and Pakistan

The UK cotton yarn import quotas for 1974 have been increased by 25 per cent over the levels for 1973. The new levels are:

The Arab Republic of Egypt	346 tonnes
Hong Kong	4,169 tonnes
India	6,991 tonnes
Pakistan	1,164 tonnes

Inquiries about these new arrangements should be made to the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Sanctuary Buildings, 16/20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB.

The general import licensing arrangements set out in NTI 1379 will continue in force.

Woven polyester/cotton and cotton textiles from Thailand

An article in *Trade and Industry* of 8 November 1973 detailed the arrangements regarding the import into the United Kingdom of woven polyester cotton and cotton textiles shipped from Thailand during the period January/June 1974. These arrangements will be extended through to the end of 1974. The July/December quota will be in all respects identical to that applicable during the first period of control. Importers will be notified shortly as to their allocations which will be on the basis of past trade.

Inquiries should be made to Department of Industry, Chemical and Textiles Division, 20th Floor, Area A, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU (tel. 01-834 4422, ext. 723).

Malaysia: investment promotion conference

A Malaysian Federal Industrial Development Authority (FIDA) investment mission is visiting Britain shortly as part of a European tour. The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (South East Asia Committee) is sponsoring the visit. The object of the mission is to discuss with British industrialists and financiers the facilities in Malaysia as a base for Asian operations. The mission is interested in small and medium sized companies as well as large ones.

British firms interested in attending an investment promotion conference, to be held at the Department of Trade, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1, on Friday, 7 June, should contact Mr. E. M. MacDonald, the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, South East Asia Section, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB (tel. 01-248 4444).

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Exports by post: documentation to facilitate rapid customs clearance

At international discussions designed to facilitate the rapid customs clearance of goods exported and imported by the postal services, attention was drawn to certain practices which have been hindering clearance operations, and national customs and postal bodies were requested to bring the following information to the attention of postal exporters.

To many important export destinations it is obligatory for each postal parcel to be accompanied by a postal despatch note and a customs declaration on the Universal Postal Union form C2/CP3 (PO ref. PP70B). When posting a batch of parcels together some exporters make out one collective customs declaration covering all the goods in the batch and attach a copy to the postal despatch note accompanying each parcel of the batch. This is liable to cause confusion at the point of importation and may result in over-collection of duties and taxes with resulting trouble and expense for the importer. The Post Office, on the advice of HM Customs, urges exporters to provide each parcel with a customs declaration relating solely to the goods in that parcel.

Attention was also drawn to difficulties caused by the practice favoured by some exporters of providing one collective certificate of origin covering all the goods in a multi-parcel batch. This again is likely to cause trouble for importers because customs duties may be incorrectly collected on a parcel whose despatch note is not accompanied by a certificate of origin. Exporters are therefore advised to provide a separate certificate for each parcel.

Under a longstanding international postal arrangement, some countries are prepared to allow up to three parcels to be covered by one despatch note, one customs declaration and, where necessary, one certificate of origin. This arrangement continues to be available but the Post Office wishes to advise exporters that, under modern mechanised handling arrangements for small parcel traffic, it is not always possible to keep batches of parcels together. It is more satisfactory to provide separate documents for each parcel.

Chile debt negotiations 1973 and 1974: contracts not insured by ECGD

The Chilean Government has requested the Governments of creditor countries for further relief of Chile's external debts in addition to that provided by the Agreement of 1972, whereby relief was given on maturities falling due in the period 1 November 1971 to 31 December 1972. Agreement has now been reached between Chile and creditor countries concerning maturities falling due in 1973 and 1974.

The Export Credits Guarantee Department is in touch with firms who have extended or medium term contracts with Chilean buyers on terms greater than 180 days, and who have insured their risks with ECGD.

The Department of Trade understands there may also be other firms, however, who have similar contracts which are not insured by ECGD. The contracts in question for rescheduling are those on credit terms above one year, concluded on or before 31 December 1973 with maturities falling due in 1973 and 1974. Firms with contracts falling within this category are requested, therefore, without delay to let the Department (Commercial Relations and Exports Division 2, Room 355 (Chile Section), 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET) have the following information:

Names of the buyer
Goods
Date of contract
Original contract value
Amounts of payments and due dates according to the contract indicating which payments have been made and which are overdue
Details and value of goods still to be shipped
If there was a guarantor of the payment
Figures net of any agent's commission, payable locally
The buyer's import licence number(s) (if known)
The rate of contractual interest, as well as the actual figures.

It will be necessary to distinguish between principal and interest in the information given above. **CRE ext. 5289**

Impression of the world's largest hover transporter, designed and built by Mackley Ace Ltd., Southampton. It is due to be launched in the summer, followed by another in the autumn. The 750-ton hover transporters (ACTs) will be used in the Middle East to ferry huge sections of liquid natural gas plant to Das, a barren island that has neither docks nor harbours. As well as a long sea crossing, the transporters will be faced with crossing half a mile of rock and sand-strewn land to reach the construction site. They have been ordered by Bechtel International Ltd., London, in association with Chiyoda Chemical Engineering Co. Ltd., Japan, and are being fabricated in Abu Dhabi. Two 10-ton hydraulic winches are fitted to the bow for loading the plant either on rollers or hover pallets. Twin hydraulic capstans midships will be used for mooring, manoeuvring and anchoring. Mackley Ace was formed two years ago to develop hover systems for marine engineering and ship-to-shore applications. It already markets a range of hover platforms from 30 tons upwards and 18 months ago launched the world's first purpose-built hover dredger. It is currently working on plans for a second hover dredger as well as self-propulsion systems for the transporters.

Tariff and Trade Notices

France

Seed potatoes: duty-reduced quota

The French *Journal Officiel*, 5 May 1974 announced that, in accordance with the arrete of 22 October 1973 stating the quota amounts for the period up to and including 30 June 1974 (see *Trade and Industry*, 22 November 1973, page 423) the quota for seed potatoes of the floury varieties, tariff No. 07.01 A I a, has been increased from 5,000 metric tons to 6,000 metric tons. Copies of the French text can be sent on request or seen at Export House. **EDB ext. 423/408/482**

Imports of early potatoes: minimum price procedure

The French *Journal Officiel*, 2 May 1974, announced that early potatoes (tariff No. 07.01 A II a and b) imported from member countries of the EEC and Greece may be admitted under the minimum price procedure.

The price level to consider for application of the minimum price procedure is as follows:

Tariff no.	Reference product	Minimum price per 100 kg in francs	Period of application
Average prices recorded at produce markets in Brittany			
07.01 A II a and b	early potatoes from Brittany	0.68	from 16 to 31 May
		0.48	from 1 to 10 June
		0.39	from 11 to 20 June
		0.29	from 21 to 30 June

Copies of the French text can be sent on request or seen at Export House. **EDB ext. 423/408/482**

Italy

Import deposit scheme

Trade and Industry of 9 May 1974 published a short notice concerning the recent Italian import deposit scheme. The following regulations are summarised from the Italian *Official Gazette* of 2 May 1974.

Definitive importation, from whatever source, of the goods listed in a table annexed to the decree is permitted by customs on presentation of a certificate, issued by the Bank of Italy or its accredited agent, attesting payment in cash by the importer, of a tied and non-interest deposit to the Bank of Italy of an amount equal to 50 per cent of the cif value shown in the Bank declaration and approval. Where the latter document shows a value for the goods different from the cif value this must be increased by 7 per cent.

Deposits will be cleared after 180 days from the date on which they were made.

The above provisions are not applicable to transactions of a value of less than one million Italian lire (approx. £650 at present rate of exchange).

Where temporarily imported goods become permanently imported the deposit must be made, before completion of the customs formalities, to an amount of 50 per cent of the value of the goods ascertained by customs.

All prohibitions and restrictions already in force on imports continue to be applicable.

The regulations are effective from 7 May 1974.

The list of goods covers numerous tariff headings: details of the goods listed are obtainable from OTAR Section of Export Data Branch. To avoid delay in research, inquirers are requested to give the customs tariff numbers of the goods in which they are interested. **EDB ext. 466/467/288**

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: 01-222 7877); and Export Data Branch (EDB), Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (CRE or EDB) and the appropriate telephone extension number. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Finland

Enabling laws

The Government of the Republic of Finland has promulgated a series of enabling laws which provide *inter alia* for:

The establishment of a system of price equalisation

An export charge on Finnish goods (to counterbalance exceptional growth of export earnings as a result of major changes in international exchange rates)

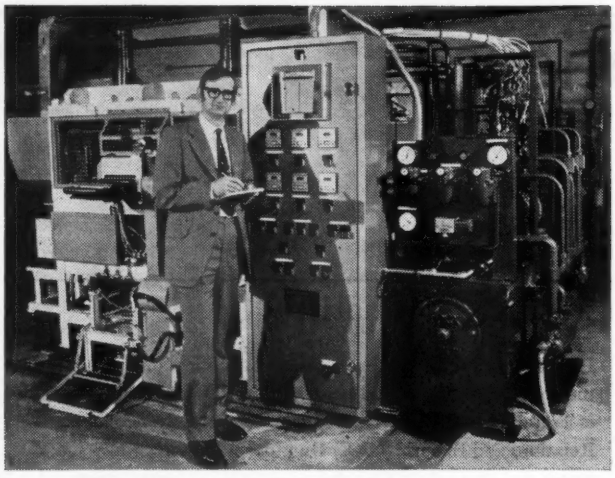
Restrictions on imports and exports (subject to Finland's current international treaty obligations)

Further details will be published if specific measures are implemented. General information may be obtained from the Department of Trade, CRE Division 3/1. **CRE ext. 3015**

Food additives

A new list of permitted food additives for Finland has been received. Loan copies of the list are available on request to OTAR Section, Export Data Branch. **EDB ext. 458/461**

Equipment with keyboard instructions in French produced by Ansafone Ltd., London. The company has gained the Queen's Award to Industry this year for export achievement. Exports have almost trebled over three years and represent a third of the turnover. No equipment is sold abroad until it has met the stringent requirements of the telephone authorities in the country concerned.



The Angus Fluid Seal Division of George Angus & Co. Ltd. is supplying manufacturing equipment worth £125,000 to Russia. The equipment, which was designed by the Division's engineers at their Wallsend plant, consists of automatic moulding, curing and knifing equipment for the production of rotary shaft oil seals and 'O' Rings, and is destined for a Russian automotive plant. The introduction was effected in the first instance by Pirelli, Dunlop's partners in a worldwide union to manufacture and market tyres, and industrial and consumer products. Subsequent technical negotiations were delegated to Peter Jenkins, overseas liaison engineer of the Angus Fluid Seal Division, a subsidiary of Dunlop. Peter Jenkins is seen here giving a final check to the moulding equipment.

Spain

Excavators: joint assembly

Notice was given in *Trade and Industry*, 17 February 1972, of the Spanish authorities' approval under special system of joint assembly of a pro forma resolution for the manufacture of wheeled or tracked hydraulic excavators with dipper capacity between 1,000 and 1,800 litres (tariff heading 84.23.A) valid until 20 January 1974. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 30 April 1974 announced the extension of validity until 20 January 1976 of the special concessions of reduced import duties on excavators on wheels or caterpillers with a bucket between 1,600 and 1,800 litres (tariff heading 84.23.A).

EDB ext. 462/471/472/473

Portugal

Temporary import and export controls

Portuguese *Diario do Governo* No. 105 published decree law 191/74 of 6 May 1974 established an *ad hoc* Controlling Commission for External Trade (Comissao de Controle do Comercio Externo).

Import licences granted by this Commision will be required for all consignments valued at more than 1 million escudos. The validity of any import authority already issued for consignments of more than 5 million escudos must be confirmed by the Commission. Import consignments of a value less than 1 million escudos are still governed by the regulations previously in force, ie prior registration is required for all consignments of more than 25,000 escudos.

In addition, the import of the following luxury or non-essential goods may be prohibited by the Commission:

ex 03.03	Lobsters
16.05	
19.03	
ex 19.08	Biscuits, including ships biscuits
22.03	
22.05.01	Champagne
22.09.03	Cognac
22.09.07	Whisky
24.02	
33.06	
40.11	
Chapter 42	
Chapter 43	
58.01/02/03	Carpets and rugs
60.05	
61.01	
61.02	
61.05	
61.06	
62.02	
Chapter 64	
Chapter 65	
Chapter 67	
69.08.01	Azulejos
69.11	
69.13	
70.13	
71.01	
71.02	Unworked diamonds and other precious stones
71.12	
71.16	
82.14	
83.06	
87.02.09	Passenger vehicles
87.10	
ex 87.14	Trailers for camping or sport
89.01.01	Boats exclusively for sport
ex 91.01/02/03	Clocks and watches of gold, platinum, silver, gilded or gold-plated
93.02/03/04/05	Fire-arms for hunting, recreation or ornament purposes
97.02	
97.03	
97.04	
97.05	
98.10.04	
Chapter 99	

Similar regulations exist governing the control of exports, including the power to prohibit the export of certain essential goods.

These measures will remain in force for one month from 6 May 1974.

EDB ext. 460/461

Pressure vessels

Supplement to Portuguese *Diario do Governo*, First Series, No. 62 of 14 March 1974, published Decree Law 101/74 establishing rules on the import, export, construction, repair, installation, utilisation or service of pressure vessels, as well as the construction, installation and utilisation of chimneys for discharge of effluents into the atmosphere. No copies are available but the original law (in Portuguese) may be consulted within OTAR Section, Export Data Branch.

EDB ext. 460/461

Israel

Surcharge amendments

The Israeli authorities have announced that from 22 March 1974 the surcharge leviable under the Emergency Regulations (Compulsory Payments) Law are not applicable on the following items:

Bovine cattle, sheep and goats for slaughter
Milk and cream, preserved, concentrated or sweetened, and butter
Guts and artificial guts
Dried leguminous vegetables
Dates, fresh, dried or compressed
Cereal flour and agricultural seeds
Sugar of all kinds
Mixtures of caramel with mineral salts containing not less than 90 per cent of caramel
Cocoa and cocoa preparations, excluding those of headings 18.02, 18.05 and 18.06 of the customs tariff
Preserved fruit
Milk products and baby food
Food preparations
Prepared animal food containing meat, and other meat products
Acid oils, fats and fatty acids of vegetable or animal origin
Citric acid
Raw materials for oil or soap manufacture

EDB ext. 475/420

Safety belts in vehicles

The Israeli authorities have announced that Section 1(a) of the Safety Belts in Vehicles Law 1973 (publicised in *Trade and Industry* on

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20 September 1973) will come into force on 1 January 1975. Section 1(a) reads as follows:

1. (a) Any person driving a private motor vehicle or a taxi shall not drive on the road unless he wears a safety belt, and he shall not permit any person not wearing a safety belt to sit on the front seat: the obligation to wear a safety belt as aforesaid shall apply also to any passenger sitting in the front seat. **EDB ext. 420/475**

Tunisia

Quotas for exports from the EEC (the Six)

The Tunisian *Official Journal*, 9 April 1974, announced the following quotas for imports from the EEC (the Six) from 1 January 1974 to 31 August 1974:

BN no.	Description	Quota (in Tunisian dinars)
04.02	Milk and cream, preserved, concentrated or sweetened	799,574
07.05	Dried leguminous vegetables, shelled, whether or not skinned or split:	
	a Beans, for sowing	2,371
	e Other peas, for sowing	13,688
16.02	Other prepared or preserved meat or meat offal	33,568
17.02	Other sugars; sugar syrups, artificial honey (whether or not mixed with natural honey); caramel:	
	a Glucose	49,535
20.02	Vegetables prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid:	
	d Sauerkraut	703
28.05	Alkali, alkaline-earth and rare earth metals; yttrium and scandium; mercury:	
	b Other	664
ex 28.32	Chlorates and perchlorates, excluding potassium chlorate	4,204
32.08	Prepared pigments, prepared opacifiers and prepared colours, vitrifiable enamels and glazes, liquid lustres and similar products of the kind used in the ceramic, enamelling and glass industries: engobes (slips); glass frit and other glass, in the form of powder, granules or flakes	30,746
32.09	Varnishes and lacquers; distempers; prepared water pigments of the kind used for finishing leather, paints and enamels; pigments in linseed oil, white spirit, spirits of turpentine, varnish or other paint or enamel media; stamping foils; dyes or other colouring matter in forms of packings of a kind sold by retail:	
	a Pigments of the kind referred to above, crushed	13,385
44.05	Wood sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, but not further prepared, of a thickness exceeding 5 mm.:	
	a General-purpose woods (other than coopery staves falling within sub-heading c)	51,732
	c Coopery staves	1,468
53.12	Woven fabrics of coarse animal hair other than horsehair	34,542
58.04	Woven pile fabrics and chenille fabrics (other than terry towelling or similar terry fabrics of cotton falling within heading No. 58.05):	
	b Other	33,692
58.08	Tulle and other net fabrics (but not including woven, knitted or crocheted fabrics), plain	1,543
58.09	Tulle and other net fabrics (but not including woven, knitted or crocheted fabrics), figured; hand or mechanically made lace, in the piece in strips or in motifs	41,962
60.06	Knitted or crocheted fabrics and articles thereof, elastic or rubberised (including elastic knee-caps and elastic stockings)	1,168
61.08	Collars, tuckets, fallais, bodicefronts, jabots, cuffs, flounces, yokes, and similar accessories and trimmings for women's and girls' garments	186
61.11	Made up accessories for articles of apparel	14,503
62.05	Other made up textile articles (including dress patterns and cheese cloths)	17,781
70.13	Falling within heading No. 70.19 of a kind commonly used for table, kitchen, toilet or office purposes, for indoor decoration or for similar uses:	
	b Of crystal	9,501
73.11	Angles, shapes and sections, of iron or steel, hot-rolled, forged, extruded, cold-formed or cold finished; sheet piling of iron or steel whether or not drilled, punched or made from assembled elements	573,162
ex 82.11	Razors and parts, excluding razor blades and razor blade blanks	84,437
82.13	Other articles of cutlery (for example, secateurs, hair clippers, butchers' cleavers, paper knives); manicure and chiropody sets and appliances (including nail files):	
	a Manicure and chiropody sets and appliances (including nail files)	465
ex 83.15	Wire, rods, tubes, plates electrodes and similar products of base metal or of metal carbides, coated or cored with flux material of a kind used for soldering, brazing, welding or deposition of metal or of metal carbides; wire and rods, of agglomerated base metal powder, used for metal spraying, excluding base metal electrodes used for arc welding	16,641
84.15	Refrigerators and refrigerating equipment (electrical and other):	
	c Refrigerating equipment with basic components	130,437
	d Parts	21,680
84.40	Machinery for washing, cleaning, drying, bleaching, dyeing, dressing, finishing or coating textile yarns, fabrics or made-up textile articles (including laundry and dry-cleaning machinery); fabric folding, reeling or cutting machines, machines of a kind used in the manufacture of linoleum or other floor coverings for applying the paste to the base fabric or other support; machines of a type used for printing a repetitive design, repetitive words or overall colour on textiles, leather, wallpaper, wrapping paper, linoleum or other materials, and engraved or etched plates, blocks or rollers therefor:	
	ex A. Parts of machinery for washing, cleaning, drying, bleaching, dyeing, dressing, finishing and coating textile yarns, fabrics or made-up textile articles (other than machinery in paragraph B and C below), including machines of linoleum or other floor coverings	43,266
	B. Laundry machinery (other than machinery in paragraph C below) machinery for dyeing-scouring dry-cleaning, ironing (including steam presses)	60,157
	ex D. Parts for the machinery falling within this sub-heading	12,564
85.06	Electro-mechanical domestic appliances, with self-contained electric motor.	34,249
ex 85.07	Parts for electric shavers and hair clippers	474
ex 85.14	Microphones and stands therefor; loudspeakers; audio frequency electric amplifiers including combinations of such appliances but excluding parts and accessories	54,748
87.02	Motor vehicles for the transport of persons, goods or materials (including sports motor vehicles, other than those of heading No. 87.09)	
	A. Private motor vehicles for the transport of persons	615,419
92.09	Musical instrument strings	407
92.11	Gramophones, dictating machines and other sound recorders and reproducers, including record-players and tape decks, with or without sound heads	49,532
92.13	Other parts and accessories of apparatus falling within heading No. 92.11	8,474

Tunisian importers are required to address their requests to the Direction du Commerce, 19 rue Al Djezira within a period not exceeding 21 days from the publication of the quotas in the *Official Journal*.

Within the limits of the quota allocated to him, the importer may place one or several requests for an import licence. However, each request should concern only one item.

Copies of the quota lists (in French) are available to British exporters on request. **EDB ext. 475/420**

Sierra Leone

National Trading Company

Government Notice No. 761 published in *Trade and Industry* 2 September 1971 (page 455) gave exclusive rights to the National Trading Company Ltd. to import into Sierra Leone certain commodities. Telegraphic information has now been received from the British High Commission in Freetown that these exclusive rights have been withdrawn. **EDB ext. 473/472/471/462**

Dahomey

Pharmaceutical products: import regulations

All pharmaceutical products, dressings, and all other articles listed in the pharmacopoeia, must be declared to the 'Direction générale des Pharmacies, Service Enregistrement et Statistiques' at the same time as the invoices or delivery notes are presented. The regulation took effect on 1 January 1974. A receipt will be given at the time of declaration: this must be attached to the other import documents.
EDB ext. 462/471/472/473

Togo

Tariff modifications

The entry tax on certain products, under tariff headings 10.06, 24.01, 24.02, 34.01, 56.07, has been lowered.

The entry tax on products under tariff heading 55.09 has been increased, but are now exempt from the 18 per cent *taxe forfaitaire*.

The level of local tax has been lowered from 5 per cent to 3 per cent on products under tariff headings 87.02 and 87.06.
EDB ext. 462/471/472/473

Nigeria

Price control

Federal Ministry of Information press release 452 of 1 May, 1974 announced that the reduction in import duties recently introduced would be passed on to the consumer. Goods whose prices will be reduced include flour, beer, mineral waters, powdered milk food, matches, tyres and tubes. The prices of electronic equipment, soap and detergents are also brought under the price control exercise. Enforcement will be made by the Price Inspectors of the Price Control Board. **CRE ext. 3064/3338**

Exchange control

Legal Notice 27 of 1974 published in the Federal Republic of Nigeria *Official Gazette* 25 April 1974 gave the following details of the Exchange Control (Payments for Imports) Order 1974, which took effect on 1 April 1974:

EXCHANGE CONTROL ACT 1962 (1962 No. 16)

Exchange Control (Payments for Imports) Order 1974

In exercise of the power conferred by section 26 of the Exchange Control Act 1962, and of all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I, Shehu Shagari, Federal Commissioner for Finance, hereby make the following Order:

1. There shall be exempted from the provisions of section 7 of the Exchange Control Act 1962 anything done by the Central Bank of Nigeria (hereinafter referred to as 'the Bank') for the purpose of any payment for imports provided the periods and conditions stipulated in this Order are adhered to.

2. Consent of the Governor of the Bank shall be given as respects:

(*a*) goods other than those specified in paragraph (*b*) of this section, at sight of shipping documents or in accordance with such credit terms as may be arranged between importer and exporter;

(*b*) machinery, plants and other goods classfied by the Bank as capital goods of a value of more than N100,000, in accordance with the supplier credit terms arranged by the importer with the approval of the Federal Ministry of Finance in the case of Departments of Governments of the Federation or of a State, statutory corporations and state-owned companies and in any other case with the approval of the Bank bearing in mind the guideline in the Schedule to this Order.

3. (1) This Order may be cited as the Exchange Control (Payments for Imports) Order 1974 and shall be deemed to have come into force on 1 April 1974.

(2) The Exchange Control (Payments for Imports) Order 1973 is hereby revoked.

SCHEDULE

The credit terms which should be obtained for capital goods imported such as plant and machinery valued at over N100,000 are set out hereunder and the Bank and Authorised Dealers will normally release foreign exchange as follows:

(*a*) Up to 15 per cent payable against documents or signing of contract;

(*b*) Up to 20 per cent payable on delivery or completion of construction period; and

(*c*) Balance of about 65 per cent payable over such period as may be agreeed between the importer and supplier, which is to be related to the supplier credit facilities normally available for the capital equipment affected from the source of origin.

Explanatory Note

(*This note does not form part of the above Order but is intended to explain its effect*)

The Order provides for flexible terms of payment for various categories of imported goods. In respect of imported goods not specified in the Schedule, payment is to be made at sight of shipping documents or on credit terms as may be arranged between supplier and importer. In respect of imported goods specified in the Schedule , payment is to be made on credit terms as may be arranged between the supplier and importer subject to the approval of Central Bank in the case of the private sector and the approval of Federal Ministry of Finance in the case of the public sector.

CRE ext. 3064/3338

Portuguese overseas territories (other than Macao)

Exhibition samples: regulations

New regulations have been issued by the Portuguese Ministry of Overseas Provinces on the temporary importation of exhibition samples, dossiers, files etc. Details can be obtained from OTAR Section, EDB. **EDB ext. 460/461**

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. 01-222 7877

EDB Export Data Branch, Export Services Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757

Registered trade marks

The lists of Tariff, Customs and Import Regulations changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

South Africa

Industrial rebates

The following amendment was published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 26 April 1974:

R.679 BN 39.02. The provision of a rebate of duty on polyvinyl chloride paste, for the manufacture of sheets suitable for use as floor covering, is withdrawn.

EDB ext. 471/473/473/462

Soft drinks regulation: proposed amendments

South African *Government Gazette* 4260 of 26 April 1974 carries details of proposed amendments to the soft drinks regulation, published last January under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972. Comments or representations on these proposals should be sent, before 25 July, to the Secretary for Health, Private Bag X 88, Pretoria.
CRE ext. 5274

Bandsaw meat-cutting machines: tariff changes

The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 3 May 1974:

R.736 BN 84.30. Specific provision is made for bandsaw meat-cutting machines at a rate of duty of 18% (General) and 15% (Preferential).

EDB ext. 471/472/473/462

Malaysia

Import controls

The Malaysian *Government Gazette* has published the following amendments to the Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Temporary Protective Measure) Order 1973:

1 The Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Temporary Protective Measure) (Amendment Nos. 3 and 4) Order 1974 amends the First Schedule (list of goods prohibited from import into any part of the Federation without import licence) the 1973 Order as follows:

a Delete heading numbers 18.05 000, 38.11 410, 38.11 430, and all particulars that follow.

b Insert

Heading no.	Description of goods	Country
38.11 411 38.11 412 38.11 431 38.11 432	Wood preservatives, being preparations other than surface coatings, containing insecticides or fungicides for application by impregnation	All countries

2 The Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Temporary Protective Measure) (Amendment No. 2) Order 1974 amends the Second Schedule (list of goods prohibited from import into West Malaysia without licence) by inserting:

Heading no.	Description of goods	Country
85.08 300	Spark plugs	All countries

No further information is available **EDB ext. 469/468/401**

Changes in import duty rates

The Malaysian *Government Gazette* has published the following amendments to the Customs Duties Order 1968:

The Customs Duties (Amendment) (Nos 7 and 8) Order 1974 amends the First Schedule of the 1968 Order as follows

a Substitute 25 per cent for 45 per cent under column 4 of heading number 58.10 000 (Embroidery, in piece, in strips or in motifs).

b Delete heading numbers 33.06 401, 33.06 402, 33.06 403, 33.06 404, 33.06 405, 33.06 499, 34.01 100, 34.01 110, 34.01 120, 34.01 130, 34.01 140, 34.01 150, 34.01 200, 34.01 900, 34.02 590, 34.02 709 and 34.02 799

c Insert the following:

Heading no.	Description	Unit of quantity	Federation Common Tariff	West Malaysia, Sabah, and Sarawak
33.06	Perfumery, cosmetic and toilet preparations:			
	Products for dental hygiene:			
401	Dental paste	Value		24 cts per lb
402	Dental powder	Value		5%
403	Dentifrice, solid	Value		5%
404	Dentifrice, liquid	Value		5%
405	Denture cleaners and mouth washes	Value		5%
499	Other	Value	5%	
34.01	Soap, organic surface-active products and preparations for use as soap in the form of bars, cakes or moulded pieces or shapes, whether or not combined with soap:			
100	Hard soap in bars or tablets	Cwt		5%
110	Toilet soap	Cwt		5%
120	Medicated or disinfectant soaps	Cwt		5%
130	Abrasive soap	Cwt		5%
140	Soap powder	Cwt		5%
150	Soap flakes	Cwt		5%
200	Industrial soaps	Cwt		5%
900	Other	Cwt		5%
34.02	Organic surface-active agents: surface-active preparations and washing preparations, whether or not containing soap:			
	Organic-surface active agents (other than soap) consisting of single substances (not chemically defined), and also those standardised with the addition of inert materials:			
	Surface-active preparations:			
590	Other	Cwt	$1.70 per lb	
	Washing preparations (including bleaching preparations):			
	Packed for retail sale:			
709	Other	Cwt	5%	
	Other			
799	other	Cwt	5%	

EDB ext. 469/468/401

Fish, crustaceans and molluscs: changes in surtax

The Malaysian *Government Gazette* has published the following amendment to the Surtax (Imports) Order 1968.

The Surtax (Imports) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 1974 amends the Schedule to the 1968 Order as follows:

Heading no.	Description
03.01	Fish, fresh (live or dead), chilled or frozen:
	Fish marine:
310	tuna
320	sauries
390	other
900	Other
03.03	Crustaceans and molluses, whether in shell or not, fresh (live or dead), chilled, frozen, salted, in brine or dried; crustaceans, in shell, simply boiled in water:
	Crustaceans:
	Prawns:
101	fresh, chilled
102	fresh, frozen
109	Other, fresh, chilled or frozen
	Molluscs
200	Oysters, fresh, chilled or frozen
310	Other than oysters, fresh, chilled or frozen

The schedule lists goods on which surtax is not levied. No further information is available. **EDB ext. 469/468/401**

CRE telephone 01-222 7877 **EDB** telephone 01-248 5757
Extensions to these numbers are given at the end of each notice.

Hong Kong

Alcohol and tobacco: Budget changes in excise duty

Further information on the increase in excise duties for alcohol and tobacco is as follows:

LIQUOR — Duty payable per gallon

Type of liquor	Hong Kong origin	Commonwealth origin	Other origin
EUROPEAN TYPE LIQUORS	$	$	$
Brandy	89.00	89.00	97.00
Liqueurs, whisky, gin, rum, vodka and other spirituous liquors	81.50	81.50	89.50
Champagne and other sparkling wines	—	47.00	55.00
Still wines above 15% alcohol by volume	—	25.00	30.00
Still wines not more than 15% alcohol by volume	—	21.00	25.00
Still wines above 15% alcohol by volume imported in casks	—	13.09	18.00
Still wines not more than 15% alcohol by volume imported in casks	—	11.00	15.00
Cider and perry and other similar beverages	—	2.60	3.10
Beer, except cider and perry, not exceeding 1055° original gravity	1.80	2.10	2.50
and in addition for every degree by which the original gravity exceeds 1055°	0.05	0.05	0.06
Intoxicating liquors on this part above the strength of 22° under proof, for every degree above such strength in addition to the duties specified above	1.23	1.23	1.35
NON EUROPEAN TYPE			
Non-European-type wines	13.00	13.00	15.00
Non-European type spirits including Chinese type spirits, Sake, Arrack	7.35	7.50	8.50
and in addition for every one *per cent* by which the alcoholic strength by volume exceeds 30%	0.30	0.30	0.34
INDUSTRIAL TYPE LIQUORS			
Ethyl alcohol, and admixtures containing ethyl alcohol	6.50	6.50	7.50
and in addition for every one *per cent* by which the alcoholic strength by volume exceeds 30%	0.26	0.26	0.30

Provided that the Director may assess the duty on:

a intoxicating liquors not specified in Part I or II, at the rate prescribed for liquor which in his opinion most nearly approximates to the liquor on which duty is to be assessed; and

b any quantity of liquor of less than two gallons, imported at any time on one consignment, at $97 per gallon.

TOBACCO	Duty payable per pound
A Unmanufactured tobacco	
1 Tobacco of Malawi origin	$9.70
2 Other tobacco	$10.00
B Manufactured tobacco	
1 Cigars:	
a of Commonwealth manufacture	$12.30
b other cigars	$14.05
2 Cigarettes:	
a of Commonwealth manufacture	$12.70
b other cigarettes	$13.60
3 Other manufactured tobacco including snuff and cigar cuttings:	
a of Commonwealth manufacture	$10.25
b Chinese prepared tobacco	$2.50
c other varieties	$11.15

EDB ext. 469

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TI5/74

Australia

Aircraft industry: Industries Assistance Commission inquiry

The Australian Prime Minister has referred the following matters to the Industries Assistance Commission for inquiry and report in accordance with Section 23 of the Industries Assistance Commission Act 1973:

1 What assistance should be accorded the design, development, production and maintenance in Australia of:
   (a) Gliders, aeroplanes, helicopters and other goods which fall within item 88.01, 88.02, 88.03, 88.04 or 88.05 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff 1966-73;
   (b) Guided air weapons and missiles including parts therefor, which fall within sub-item 93.07.9 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff 1966-73;
   (c) Propulsion systems for goods specified in sub-paragraph 1(a) or 1(b) above, including parts therefor, which fall within sub-item 84.06.9 or 84.08.9 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff 1966-73;

2 In conducting its inquiry and presenting its report the Industries Assistance Commission should have regard to the desire of the Government that the Commission be free to take evidence on, and, if considered necessary, to make recommendations on:
   (a) Mechanical hydraulic, electrical, electro-mechanical and electronic equipment used in the goods specified above; and
   (b) Any other product it considers relevant to its inquiry under this reference.

3 If the Commission's recommendations would involve any restructuring of the industry the Commission should indicate the most appropriate manner in which this could be achieved while noting that because of the severe effects of the declining defence work load, the Government may need to consider taking action which could lead to some restructuring of that part of the industry of particular concern to the Defence Services before the Commission's inquiry is completed.

4 What assistance would be necessary to maintain an Australian aircraft industry capable of providing to the Defence Forces the following levels of local involvement for the goods described in paragraph 1.
   (a) repair, overhaul and incorporation of modifications;
   (b) as (a) plus support in the manufacture of spares;
   (c) as (b) plus design, development and manufacture of selected goods;
   and the way in which this assistance might be provided.

5 Specify the period of 18 months commencing on 22 April 1974 as the period within which the Commission is to report on the matters described in this reference.

Tariff details of the goods may be obtained from Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section, Export Data Branch (EDB ext. **468/469/401**).

UK trade associations or firms intending to submit evidence to the Industries Assistance Commission should advise the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, Kings Avenue, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia, without delay by air mail. Interested parties should indicate the goods with which they are concerned and whether, in their evidence at the public hearings, they will be seeking the continuation of the current rates of duty or a change in the rates.

Evidence may be submitted to the Industries Assistance Commission either directly by the firm or trade association concerned or through the Australian British Trade Association, 21 Tothill Street, London SW1 (tel. 01-799 7447). The association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member. Ref. CRE 66/74. **CRE ext. 5318/5319**

Bright round steel bars: Tariff Board Inquiry result

A notice in *Trade and Industry*, 12 June 1973, stated that a reference had been made to the Tariff Board on the classification of bright round steel bars falling within tariff item 73.10.2. The inquiry has been completed and as a result the Tariff Board has recommended:

a that the goods under reference be classified within sub-item 73.10.2 of the Customs Tariff which is in accordance with present practice; and

b that the use of the term 'shafting' in the tariff should be discontinued. Ref. CRE 1081/73. **EDB ext. 468/469/401**

New Zealand

Naphthenates and sulphonaphthenates: inquiry hearing postponed

The New Zealand Tariff and Development Board inquiry set down for 21 May 1974 to investigate the extent of protection considered necessary on naphthenates and sulphonaphthenates (tariff item 38.19.202) has been postponed. The new date for the hearing will be published when known. Details of the inquiry were given in *Trade and Industry*, 13 December 1973, pages 597-9. Ref. CRE 1222/73 **CRE ext. 5321**

Permitted metric packages

The New Zealand Government has issued the Weights and Measures Metric Packages Notice 1974 which came into force on 1 March 1974. This notice enables the following items to be sold by retail in packages of specified metric nett weight measures. It does not restrict the right to use the Imperial weights and measures already prescribed:

Butter	Pepper
Tea	Mustard
Sugar	Nails
Coffee	Paints
Coffee and chicory	Tobacco
Cocoa and cocoa powder	Turpentine
Chocolate powder	Varnish
Treacle and golden syrup	
Honey (except in the comb)	

EDB ext. 401/468/469

Fiji

Customs tariff changes

The Fijian Government has issued Customs Tariff Ordinance (Amendment) No. 3 Order 1974, which came into force 1 March 1974. The First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Ordinance was amended as follows:

(a) deleting the items 22.01/02.01 and 22.01/02.09 and substituting therefor:

'22.01/02.01	Spa and aerated waters, whether or not sweetened or flavoured	30%	5%	Free
22.01/02.09	Other	Free	Free	Free'

(b) substituting the figure and symbol '5%' and the word 'Free' for the figures and symbols '25%' and '5%' in the third and fourth columns of item 58.04.00.00;

(c) substituting the following item for item 58.07.00.00:

'58.07	Chemille yarn (including flock chenille yarn), gimped yarn (other than metallised yarn of heading No. 52.01 and gimped horse-hair yarn); braids and ornamental trimmings in the piece; tassels, pompons and the like			
58.07.00.01	Chenille yarn (including flock chenille yarn) and gimped yarn	5%	Free	Free
58.07.00.09	Other	25%	5%	Free'

(d) substituting the figure and symbol '5%' and the word 'Free' for the figures and symbols '25%' and '5%' in the third and fourth columns of item 58.08.00.00;

(e) substituting the figure nd symbol '5%' and the word 'Free' for the figures and symbols '25%' and '5%' in the third and fourth columns of item 58.09.00.00;

(f) substituting the figure and symbol '5%' and the word 'Free' for the figures and symbols '25%' and '5%' in the third and fourth columns of item 58.10.00.00.

EDB ext. 469/468/401

Canada

Medical devices notification

Information letter 419 issued by the Canadian Department of Health and Welfare sets out proposals for regulations to be made under the Food and Drug Act requiring that medical devices be subject to notification at the earliest possible date. Under the regulations manufacturers or importers of devices will be required to submit certain detailed information to the Health Protection Branch on a prescribed form within ten days after the first sale of the device in Canada. In addition it will be incumbent on the manufacturer to notify the Health Protection Branch when the device is withdrawn from sale of changes are made which affect the information previously submitted. Fuller details are available and comments are invited by 30 May 1974. **EDB ext. 455/456/457**

United States

Wine and malt beverages: labelling

The US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has published two sets of draft proposed alcohol labelling regulations requiring the full disclosure on the label of all ingredients used in the production of wine products and malt beverage products, except for ingredients removed before the product reaches the consumer. The ingredients on the labels would have to be certified by the Government of the foreign producer country. **CRE ext. 5397**

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St. Lucia

Consumption tax amendment

In the schedule to the consumption tax the St. Lucia authorities by SRO 22/74 of 9 April 1974 have deleted BTN items 17.04, 22.09.10, 27.10.10, 27.10.30, 27.10.60 and have inserted the following:

17.04	Sugar confectionery	10% *ad. val.*
18.06.10	Chocolate confectionery	10% *ad. val.*
22.09.10	Rum in bottles and not overproof	$8.50 per L. gal
27.10.10	Motor gasoline	31c. per gal
27.10.20	Aviation spirits	28 c. per gal
27.10.30	Other motor spirits	31c. per gal
27.10.40	Lamp oil and other white spirits	13c. per gal
27.10.50	Illuminating kerosene	12c. per gal
27.10.60	Diesel oil	11c. per gal
27.10.70	Lubrication oil	10c. per gal
27.10.90	Gas oil and other fuel oils	06c. per gal
27.14.10	Petroleum bitumen	$1.20 per 100 gal
27.14.90	Other	$1.20 per 100 gal
27.16	Bituminous mixtures based on natural asphalt	$1.20 per 100 gal

EDB ext. 7312/474/476

Uruguay

Special concessions for 1974

Uruguayan Decree 19/974, published in *Diario Oficial* 19203, authorises the importation of the following goods to be free from import duties, taxes, surcharges and prior deposits for the period of 1974:

Fertilisers and raw materials for their manufacture

Jute fabric

Seeds, in accordance with the regulations issued by the Ministry of Livestock and Agriculture

Vaccines, with the exception of those included in sub-group 42.875 (leguminous vaccines) of the Uruguayan Import List.

EDB ext. 474/476/7312

Sugar industry

Uruguayan Decree 21/974, published in *Diario Oficial* 19203, cancels decree 612/973 and authorises that sacchariferous plant seeds, agricultural and industrial machinery and accessories and parts for sugar refineries and estates may be imported duty- and tax-free. In order to enjoy these concessions, however, such imports must first be referred to the Honorary Sugar Commission. In the case of spares and accessories a sworn declaration must be made in each case as to their destination and including a clear description of the machinery for which they are intended.

EDB ext. 474/476/7312

Tariff amendments

Uruguayan Decrees have been published amending the tariff as follows:

Amendment to BN 91.11. Uruguayan Decree 2/974, published in *Diario Oficial* 19200, amends the break-down of tariff no. 91.11 which now reads as follows:

Tariff no.	Description	Unit	Valuation (pesos)	Duty
91.11	Other clock and watch parts			
A.00	Springs:			
.01	Of width greater than 4 mm.	KG	48.67	84%
.99	Other		*ad val*	20%
B.00	Other parts for clocks of headings 91.01 and 91.02		*ad val*	20%
C.00	Other		*ad val*	84%

Amendment to BN 37.05. Uruguayan Decree 39/974, published in *Diario Oficial* 19206, increases the rate of duty against tariff no. 37.05 to 110 per cent *ad valorem*; and introduces a valuation of 81.12 pesos per kilogram gross weight as the basis of value for duty (the basis of value for duty was previously cif).

Amendment to BN 85.22. Uruguayan Decree 57/974, published in *Diario Oficial* 19210, amends the break-down of tariff no. 85.22 which now reads as follows:

Tariff no.	Description	Unit	Valuation (pesos)	Duty
85.22	Electrical appliances and apparatus, having individual functions, not falling within any other heading of this chapter			
A.00	Nuclear particle accelerators		*ad val*	84%
B.00	High frequency and low frequency generators	KG	24.34	84%
C.00	Other		*ad val*	84%

Amendment to BN 90.24. Uruguayan Decree 79/974, published in *Diario Oficial* 19213, amends the break-down of tariff no. 90.24 which now reads as follows:

Tariff no.	Description	Unit	Valuation (pesos)	Duty
90.24.A.00	Apparatus and instruments for measuring:			
.01	Manometers and vacuum guages	Each	324.48	84%
.99	Other		*ad val*	84%
B.00	Other:			
.01	Thermostats and pressurestats	KG	40.56	84%
.99	Other	KG	40.56	84%

EDB ext. 474/476/7312

BN 39.03: Basis of value for duty

Uruguayan Decree 119/974, published in *Diario Oficial* 19221, introduces a valuation of 34.07 pesos per kilogram gross weight as the basis of value for duty for the goods of heading 39.03 (excluding regenerated cellulose) in plates, sheets, strip, film and foil, surface worked (tariff no. 39.03.E.99). The actual rate of import duty remains at 84 per cent. **EDB ext. 474/476/7312**

Chile

Import liberalisation programme

The Chilean authorities have announced a new import policy. In the implementation of this policy, two across-the-board reductions in customs import tariffs have so far been introduced – the first by decree no. 225 (see *Trade and Industry*, 11 April 1974) and the second by decree 453. The latter decree introduces a reduction table for import duty rates *ad valorem* cif as follows:

Reduced from	to	Reduced from	to
35%	30%	120%	100%
40%	35%	125%	100%
45%	40%	130%	110%
50%	40%	135%	110%
55%	50%	140%	110%
60%	50%	145%	120%
65%	60%	150%	120%
70%	60%	155%	120%
75%	70%	160%	130%
80%	70%	165%	130%
85%	80%	170%	130%
90%	80%	175%	140%
95%	80%	180%	140%
100%	90%	185%	140%
105%	90%	190%	150%
110%	90%	195%	150%
115%	100%	200%	160%

Import regulations have simultaneously been eased from 8 April by:

Removing the high (10,000 per cent) prior deposit for import permits from all but a short list of luxury items on Chile's permitted-imports list (details of goods still affected available from OTAR Section, EDB).

The decision to allow imports of capital goods on a short-term payment basis.

Repealing the requirements introduced in the past by the Central Bank regarding the prior approval of imports by Government Departments other than the Bank. (Note: the Central Bank has also undertaken to rule on all import applications within a maximum period of 20 days from presentation).

Inquiries from British exporters about this notice may be addressed to OTAR Section, Export Data Branch. **EDB ext. 474/476/7312**

Exchange rates

The exchange rates announced by the Chilean Central Bank changed again on 30 April 1974. The 'Bank' rate is now 580 escudos per US dollar. The other official exchange rates remain unchanged.

CRE ext. 5289

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1971	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,404	9,223	2,129	2,087	series in £ million				series in £ million		
1969	97	98	98	93	92	416	320	42	13	445	−143	588
1970	99	100	100	100	100	257	175	68	38	692	−9	701
1971	100	103	100	92	101	−7	−218	52	21	1,067	285	782
1972	102	109	102	83	111	−394	−498	28	22	69	−677	746
1973	108	114	106	88	116	720	433	34	227	−1468	−2375	907
1971 3rd qtr	101	104	101	92	105	−18	67	9	15	380	172	208
4th qtr	101	105	101	88	102	—	−47	3	21	248	60	188
1972 1st qtr	100	106	103	88	105	−131	−156	15	−9	71	−121	192
2nd qtr	102	108	102	84	110	−100	−145	−12	40	112	−64	176
3rd qtr	102	110	102	81	110	−83	−125	4	−8	−116	−284	163
4th qtr	105	111	102	81	118	−80	−72	22	−1	+2	−208	210
1973 1st qtr	108	115	109	87	123	247	168	18	31	−186	−351	165
2nd qtr	108	113	102	84	107	209	87	−14	154	−196	−399	203
3rd qtr	108	114	107	91	116	120	79	18	22	−357	−606	249
4th qtr	108	114	108	92	121	144	98	14	20	−729	−1019	290
1974 1st qtr		112										
% change last 2 qtrs on prev. 2 qtrs	+0.2	+0.1	+2.1	+6.5	+3.0							
on a year earlier	+4.5	+3.0	+5.5	+12.9	+3.5							

	Index of industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs					Labour			Trade §	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Index of retail prices		Index of wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry		Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services) ‡	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students		Unfilled vacancies for adults	Exports	Imports
				monthly averages	Index‡	% increase on a year earlier	basic materials and fuel used‡	manufactured products: home sales‡		mid-month count	% of total employees	mid-month count	monthly averages	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan 16, 1962		1970	1970	July 31, 1972				Series in	
£m in base year			15,895	thousands						thousands		thousands	£ million	
1970	100.0	100.0	99.0	91.4	140.2	6.4	100.0	100.0	78.5	568	2.5	186	658	659
1971	100.3	99.5	100.0	108.5	153.4	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	737	3.2	129	733	709
1972	102.4	101.9	105.8	138.6	164.3	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	816	3.6	145	761	818
1973	109.7	110.1	110.7	137.3	179.4	9.2	144.1	123.2*	115.5	581	2.6	304	953	1,151
1972 2nd qtr	102.7	101.2	104.6	147	162.7	6.2	106.1	113.5	98.1	838	3.7	132	764	786
3rd qtr	102.9	102.3	107.2	139	165.4	6.5	109.4	115.6	102.2	808	3.6	147	684	779
4th qtr	105.8	105.4	109.5	144	169.4	7.7	115.6	118.0	107.8	750	3.3	179	871	940
1973 1st qtr	110.2	110.4	111.8	152	172.4	8.0	126.0	119.5	108.8	667	2.9	228	878	995
2nd qtr	109.3	109.4	108.0	136	177.9	9.3	133.4	120.1*	112.6	605	2.6	289	931	1,064
3rd qtr	110.3	110.7	110.5	143	180.2	9.2	150.5	124.2	118.4	562	2.5	334	995	1,197
4th qtr	108.8	109.7	112.3	119	186.8	10.3	167.2	129.1	120.9	489	2.2	364	1,008	1,348
1974 1st qtr	101.7	103.5	110.1	103	101.4	12.9	206.4 p	138.4 p	124.8	543	2.4	285	1,123 p	1,547 p
1973 Apr	109.0	109.0	106.9	138	176.7	9.2	130.5	118.8*	112.3	616	2.7	271	940	956
May	108 9	108.0	106.5	134	178.0	9.5	132.4	120.1	113.2	605	2.7	291	894	1,139
June	110.0	111.1	110.1	135	178.9	9.3	137.2	121.3	115.6	593	2.6	304	960	1,198
July	110.3	110.5	110.6	147	179.7	9.4	145.1	122.7	116.0	581	2.6	324	961	1,145
Aug	109.7	110.3	110.8	153	180.2	8.9	152.4	124.1	119.7	563	2.5	330	980	1,206
Sept	110.8	111.4	110.2	129	181.8	9.3	154.1	125.8	120.0	542	2.4	349	1,043	1,239
Oct	110.8	111.3	111.7	127	185.4	9.9	161.4	127.7	120.3	512	2.3	363	982	1,385
Nov	109.8	111.3	112.3	126	186.8	10.3	165.5	129.0	120.8	486	2.2	368	1,022	1,304
Dec	105.4	106 6	112.9	103	188.2	10.6	174.8	130.6	122.0	470	2.1	362	1,019	1,354
1974 Jan	99.4	99.8	109 5	93	191.8	12.0	203.0	134.1	123.6	535	2.4	304	1,015	1,398
Feb	101.1	104.3	110.3	109	101.7†	13.2†	207.0	138.5	124.6	549	2.4	278	1,150 p	1,579 p
Mar	104.7	106.4	110.4	106	102.6	13.5	208.8 c	142.5 p	126.3	545	2.4	274	1,209 p	1,662 p
Apr			108.5 p	98 p			209.1 p	147.2 p		546 p	2.4 p	297 p	1,276 p	1,667 p
% change last qtr on prev. qtr	−6.5	−5.7	−1.7	−2.8	+4.2		+15.0	+8.7	+3.1	+10.0		−18.0	+19.1	+20.9
on a year earlier	−7.7	−6.3	−1.2	−29.5	+12.9		+61.9	+20.3	+14.6	−14.3		+12.6	+34.5	+63.6

(‡) Not seasonally adjusted. (§) On a balance of payments basis. * After April 1973, affected by changes due to VAT. † Base of index Jan 1974 = 100.

Monthly report on the economic situation

The following report on the economic situation, prepared by HM Treasury, will be published in 'Economic Trends' for May at the end of the month. Unless otherwise stated, this report is based on seasonally-adjusted data.

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half	* five week period
the final digit shown	ø fifty-three week
p provisional	period

Output and demand

The evidence on the loss of output in the first quarter of this year is still sparse. Although the actual level of output fell during this period, the latest CBI Industrial Trends Survey suggests that the trend of output was rising over the four months to April. The fall in consumers' expenditure during the first quarter – estimated at about 1½ per cent – was smaller than the loss of earnings, implying a fall in the savings ratio which had been high during the last three quarters of 1973. The fall in spending was also certainly below the loss of output during the quarter, implying a reduction in stocks as well as perhaps some additional imports. Other evidence, including that of the CBI Survey, supports this in respect of stocks of finished goods, although stocks of materials and fuels held by manufacturers appear to have been increasing.

Very little information on the second quarter is yet available. By early April the recovery of output was well underway in most sectors of industry. But recovery of steel production has been delayed, partly by industrial disputes, and recovery of coal production is also being delayed. Shortages of steel and other components may also still be affecting output in some other industries, notably in the engineering sector.

CBI Industrial Trends Survey

The latest CBI Survey was conducted during April and published on 9 May. As was to be expected, the Survey suggests that industry is much less pessimistic about the general business situation than in January, during the period of three-day working. A substantial positive balance of firms expects to increase employment and output during the next four months, and there is optimism about export prospects with substantial increases expected in export orders and deliveries (partly reflecting an expected rise in export prices).

The Survey is more optimistic on investment than the last Survey but still substantially less so than before the miners' dispute. A very small positive balance of firms now expect to increase investment in plant and machinery over the next 12 months, but some reduction in investment in building is suggested. Shortages of materials or components and of skilled labour are seen as the main constraints on output over the next few months, but credit and finance is still not regarded as an important limiting factor. Among the major industry groups, the capital goods industries are those most constrained by shortages, but they also have more buoyant investment intentions than the consumer goods industries.

Consumer spending

The volume of retail sales showed virtually no change between February and March, giving a fall of about 2 per cent for the first quarter as a whole compared with the preceding quarter. The March figures suggest that there may have been some pre-Budget spending at off-licences and jewellers' shops. In January and February the reduction in sales had been less than the reduction in earnings, suggesting a fall in the savings ratio in these months; and the fact that sales were unchanged in March despite the return to full-time working in mid-month could reflect an attempt to begin re-building savings. Provisional estimates for April indicate that the volume of retail sales may have been below the March level. There was little change in new car registrations in March, but in the first quarter as a whole they fell by about 14 per cent and were about one-third lower than their peak level in the first quarter of 1972. The provisional estimate for April suggests a further small fall.

Construction

Provisional housing statistics reported for March suggest that the recent recovery in public sector starts continued in that month but that private sector starts were little changed from their relatively low level of recent months. In the latest six month period public sector starts were 14 per cent higher than in the previous six months – though hardly changed from a year earlier – but private sector starts were down by over 27 per cent. New construction orders continued their downward trend in February: in January and February together they averaged 15 per cent lower than in the fourth quarter of 1973.

Trade and balance of payments

The current account of the balance of payments is estimated to have been in deficit by £309 million in April. The deficit on trade in goods was £391 million, of which £308 million was accounted for by the deficit on trade in petroleum and petroleum products. The balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £82 million. The visible trade deficit was smaller than in March as a result of a marked improvement in the non-oil deficit which has become progressively smaller since last December. The value of exports in April was

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£1,276 million on a balance of payments basis, thus continuing the recent strong growth: in the three months February-April exports were 19 per cent higher in value than in the previous three months. Imports were £1,667 million in April, much the same level as in March. Oil imports rose by £20 million between the two months reflecting a further rise in the import price of crude oil. In the three months February to April imports were 21 per cent higher than in the previous three months with oil imports increasing by 103 per cent and non-oil imports 10 per cent. Imports of finished manufactures rose less than 1 per cent.

Labour market

The level of unemployment – seasonally adjusted excluding school-leavers and adult students – was almost unchanged in April, and the rate remained at 2.4 per cent for Great Britain and 2.5 per cent for the United Kingdom as a whole. However, unfilled vacancies notified to Employment Offices increased by about 23,000 in April, the first increase since last November. (The new series, 'vacancies notified to Employment Offices', includes some vacancies suitable for young persons but is virtually the same as the old adult vacancy series.) The latest estimates of employment in industry relate to February, when there was a fall of about ¼ per cent compared with January; but there was a reduction in short-time working (not seasonally adjusted) and a rise in overtime working between January and February and this trend is borne out by the earnings figures for the month.

Wholesale prices

The provisional index of wholesale prices of home sales of manufactured products (not seasonally adjusted) increased by about 3¼ per cent in April. This is slightly larger than the revised March increase of just under 3 per cent, but about a quarter of the April rise reflects the higher excise duty on drink and tobacco announced in the Budget. Prices of basic materials and fuels purchased by manufacturing industry showed only a negligible rise in April, continuing the much slower rate of increase that has been evident since January. Prices of food materials fell about 5 per cent in April but this was offset by higher coal and copper prices.

Financial developments

The money and banking figures for April will not be published until 20 May. During the banking month ending 20 March the narrow version of the money stock (M1) fell by ¼ per cent and the broadly-defined version (M3) rose by ½ per cent. Over the latest three banking months M1 fell by ½ per cent and M3 rose by 4 per cent. The small rise in M3 in March, after an increase of only 1¼ per cent in February, shows the pace of monetary expansion slowing significantly following introduction in December of the Supplementary Scheme (see paragraph 12 below). Short-term interest rates were fairly steady during the second half of April and the beginning of May.

The slower rate of monetary growth in March was, as in February, associated in the main with a smaller increase in lending to the private sector. Bank lending in sterling to the private sector during March rose by about £250 million after seasonal adjustment. This was higher than in the preceding month but well below the previous trend. There were also large official sales of gilt-edged stocks to the non-bank public which reduced the Government's need for finance from the banking sector and so were an additional moderating influence on M3.

At the end of April the Bank of England announced terms for the continuation for a further six months of the supplementary scheme for controlling the growth of money and credit. This scheme was introduced in December to restrain the growth of banks' interest-bearing sterling liabilities, which had accounted for most of the growth of M3 in the previous year, and provided for payments of supplementary non-interest-bearing deposits to the Bank in respect of growth of these liabilities above 8 per cent in the first half of 1974. The guideline announced for the second half of the year, up to December 1974, involves a broadly equivalent rate of growth. Supplementary deposits will be payable by banks if their interest-bearing sterling liabilities grow each month by more than 1½ per cent of the average level in the base period for the scheme (October-December 1973).

The United Kingdom official reserves rose by $512 million during April after accruals of foreign currency borrowing by the public sector under the exchange cover scheme totalling $749 million. At the end of April the reserves stood at $6,956 million. At the close on 14 May the effective depreciation of sterling compared with Smithsonian exchange rates was about 18½ per cent.

Detailed statistics of UK overseas trade

Each month the Overseas Trade Statistics give a considerable amount of detail about United Kingdom imports, exports of commodities and, for many of them, the most important countries. The information in these statistics is a summary of much more detailed information. This is derived from declarations made by traders to HM Customs and Excise under the descriptions in the Tariff and Overseas Trade Classification (which has over 11,000 commodity headings); there are 199 specified countries.

The fully detailed information is not published on a monthly basis but, when circumstances allow, HM Customs and Excise can supply detailed information about trade under individual descriptions of the Tariff and Overseas Trade Classsification and with individual countries or through United Kingdom ports, either for particular months or for longer periods. A charge is made which covers the cost of the service.

Applications should be made to the Statistical Office, Bill of Entry Section, HM Customs and Excise, 27 Victoria Avenue; Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 6AL (Tel. Southend (0702) 49421, ext. 316 or 323 for Imports, or ext. 314 or 315 for Exports; Telex 99112 CUSEX Southend).

Monthly Digest of Statistics

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Current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments for April

In April 1974 the current account is estimated to have been in deficit by £309 million. The deficit on trade in goods was £391 million, seasonally adjusted, of which £308 million was accounted for by the deficit on trade in oil (that is, petroleum and petroleum products – for details see Table 9). The balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £82 million.

In the three months February to April 1974 the current account deficit averaged £342 million a month compared with £243 million a month in the previous three months.

£ million per month seasonally adjusted

		Visible balance: Trade in goods			
	Current balance	Petroleum and petroleum products	Other goods	Total	Invisible balance: Services and other current transactions
1973 1st qtr.	−62	−62	−55	−117	+55
2nd qtr.	−65	−75	−58	−133	+68
3rd qtr.	−119	−78	−124	−202	+83
4th qtr.	−243	−100	−240	−340	+97
1974 1st qtr.	−342	−236	−188	−424	+82 •
1973 Nov.	−185	−94	−188	−282	+97 †
Dec.	−238	−104	−231	−335	+97 †
1974 Jan.	−307	−166	−223	−389	+82 •
Feb.	−347	−247	−182	−429	+82 •
Mar.	−371	−294	−159	−453	+82 •
April	−309	−308	−83	−391	+82 •
1973 Nov.-Jan. 1974	−243	−121	−214	−335	+92 •
1974 Feb.-Apr.	−342	−284	−140	−424	+82 •

• These figures are projections and are subject to revision as the relevant statistical information becomes available. No allowance has been made for the effects of short time working.

† One third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate. Monthly figures of invisibles are not available.

Visible trade

(a) Summary. In April there was a deficit on visible trade of £391 million, seasonally adjusted; the value of exports was £1,276 million and the value of imports was £1,667 million.

The overall trade deficit was somewhat smaller than the £453 million deficit in March as a result of a marked improvement in the non-oil trade deficit which has become progressively smaller since last December: in April the non-oil deficit was £83 million compared with £159 million in March and £231 million in December, 1973. The oil trade deficit (details of which are given in Table 9) continued to worsen, reaching £308 million in April, compared with £294 million in March and £78 million a month in the third quarter of 1973, prior to the recent large price increases.

In the three months February to April, the deficit on visible trade averaged £424 million a month compared with an average of £335 million per month in the previous three months. The oil trade deficit

TABLE 1 Visible trade on balance of payments basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million per month

	Exports (fob)	Imports (fob)	Visible balance
1972	761	818	− 57
1973	953	1,151	−198
1972 1st quarter	726	766	− 40
2nd quarter	764	786	− 22
3rd quarter	684	779	− 95
4th quarter	871	940	− 69
1973 1st quarter	878	995	−117
2nd quarter	931	1,064	−133
3rd quarter	995	1,197	−202
4th quarter	1,008	1,348	−340
1974 1st quarter pr	1,123	1,547	−424
1973 November	1,022	1,304	−282
December	1,019	1,354	−335
1974 January pr	1,011	1,400	−389
February p	1,150	1,579	−429
March p	1,209	1,662	−453
April p	1,276	1,667	−391
1973 Nov.-Jan. 1974	1,018	1,353	−335
1974 Feb.-April p	1,212	1,636	−424

p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates.

TABLE 2 Exports

Seasonally adjusted values § — £ million per month

	Overseas trade statistics basis (fob)	Coverage adjustments	Balance of payments basis (fob)
1972	812	− 51	761
1973	1,038	− 85	953
1972 1st quarter	773	− 48	726
2nd quarter	813	− 49	764
3rd quarter	733	− 49	684
4th quarter	929	− 59	871
1973 1st quarter	945	− 68	878
2nd quarter	1,005	− 73	931
3rd quarter	1,084	− 89	995
4th quarter	1,117	−110	1,008
1974 1st quarter pr	1,213	− 90	1,123
1973 November	1,137	−115	1,022
December	1,126	−107	1,019
1974 January pr	1,093	− 82	1,011
February p	1,253	−103	1,150
March p	1,292	− 83	1,209
April p	1,372	− 96	1,276
1973 Nov.-Jan. 1974	1,119	−101	1,018
1974 Feb.-April p	1,306	− 94	1,212

§ Components and totals are rounded independently
p Provisional estimates
r Revised estimates

TABLE 3 Imports

Seasonally adjusted values § — £ million per month

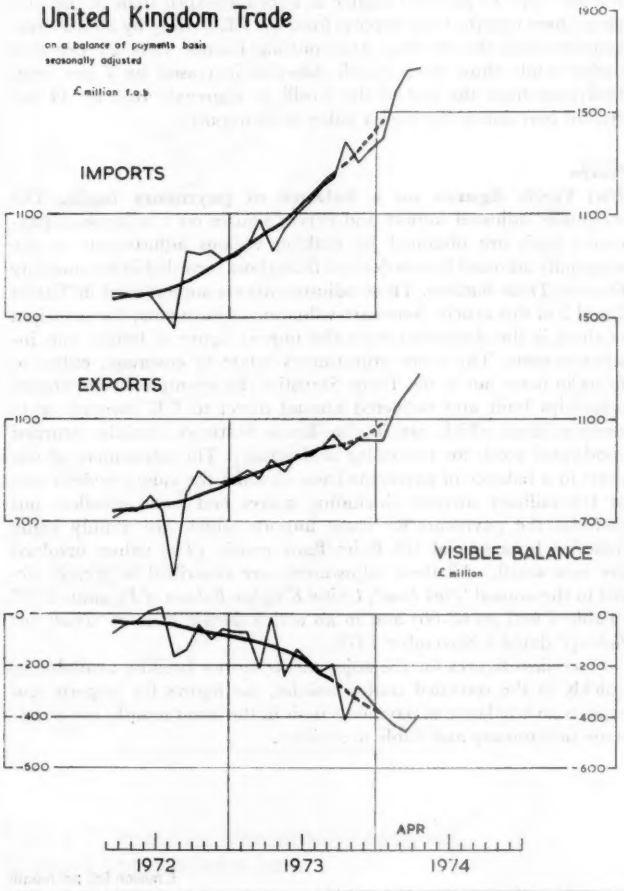
	Overseas trade statistics basis (cif)	Adjustments to balance of payments basis: Freight insurance and other valuation adjustments	Adjustments to balance of payments basis: Coverage adjustments ‡	Balance of payments basis (fob)
1972	928	− 86	−24	818
1973	1,321	−114	−56	1,151
1972 1st quarter	877	− 81	−30	766
2nd quarter	891	− 86	−19	786
3rd quarter	888	− 82	−27	779
4th quarter	1,057	− 94	−23	940
1973 1st quarter	1,130	−102	−33	995
2nd quarter	1,226	−110	−52	1,064
3rd quarter	1,388	−118	−73	1,197
4th quarter	1,541	−128	−65	1,348
1974 1st quarter pr	1,758	−144	−67	1,547
1973 November	1,515	−126	−85	1,304
December	1,533	−119	−60	1,354
1974 January pr	1,573	−138	−35	1,400
February p	1,807	−152	−76	1,579
March p	1,894	−144	−89	1,662
April p	1,906	−146	−93	1,667
1973 Nov.-Jan. 1974	1,540	−128	−60	1,353
1974 Feb.-April p	1,869	−147	−86	1,636

§ Components and totals are rounded independently.
‡ Including adjustments for arrivals of and payments for United States military aircraft, etc. up to the end of 1972.
p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates.

averaged £284 million a month, in the latest three monthly period, more than twice as large as the £121 million a month in the previous three months. The non-oil trade deficit fell to £140 million a month compared with a monthly average of £214 million in the earlier period.

(**b**) **Exports.** The value of exports in April was £1,276 million, seasonally adjusted on a balance of payments basis, thus continuing the strong growth in the value of exports this year.

In the three months February-April exports averaged £1,212 million a month, 19 per cent higher than in the previous three months. Between those periods exports (measured on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis) to Western Europe increased by 14 per cent with both the EEC and EFTA contributing equally. Deliveries to Sterling Area outside Europe rose by 14 per cent while those to North America were 7 per cent higher and to the rest of the world in aggregate 24 per cent higher.



Among manufactured goods, which rose by 18 per cent between the three monthly period November 1973 to January 1974 and the latest three months, the value of deliveries of chemicals and textiles continued to increase particularly strongly, rising by 32 per cent and 24 per cent respectively. Exports of machinery and transport equipment rose by 15 per cent between the same periods; within this

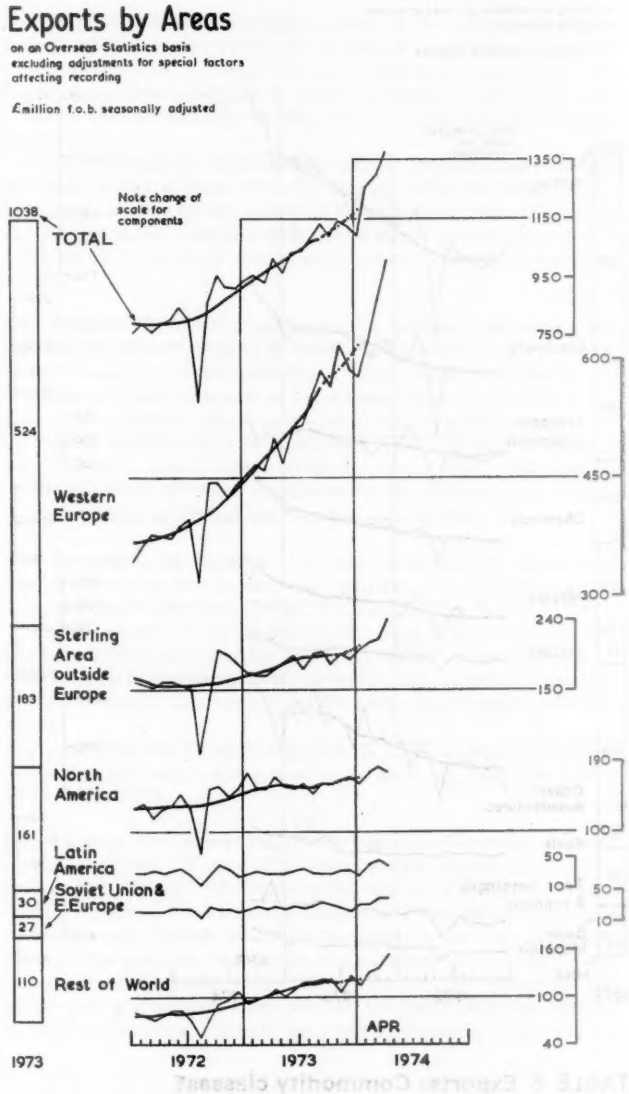


TABLE 4 Recorded values
Overseas trade statistics basis

£ million per month

		Exports fob	Imports cif ‡
1972	1st quarter	770.7	905.7
	2nd quarter	843.9	910 6
	3rd quarter	683.3	850.0
	4th quarter	950.7	1,052.1
1973	1st quarter	942.6	1,189.6
	2nd quarter	1,024.9	1,240.8
	3rd quarter	1,018.7	1,313.2
	4th quarter	1,165.5	1,541.1
1974	1st quarter pr	1,192.0	1,769.6
	February p	1,180.4	1,697.1
	March p	1,317.8	1,962.4
	April p	1,355.2	1,965.1

‡ Including arrivals of US military aircraft up to the end of 1972.
p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates

TABLE 5 Exports: Areas¶
Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob per month

		Total	Sterling area outside Europe	Western Europe inc. Irish Republic: Total	EEC	EFTA	North America	Latin America	Soviet Union and Eastern Europe	Rest of world
1973		1,038	183	524	336	146	161	30	27	110
1973	2nd qtr.	1,005	183	493	320	137	161	29	27	107
	3rd qtr.	1,084	190	551	354	151	158	30	29	119
	4th qtr.	1,117	189	589	377	164	165	30	26	118
1974	1st qtr. pr	1,213	208	625	406	176	171	35	32	127
1974	Feb. p	1,253	210	625	407	170	175	39	30	129
	March p	1,292	213	675	443	189	181	40	36	137
	April p	1,372	241	726	464	197	175	36	38	154
1973	Nov.-Jan. 1974	1,119	195	593	383	162	165	29	27	116
1974	Feb.-April p	1,306	221	675	438	186	177	39	35	140

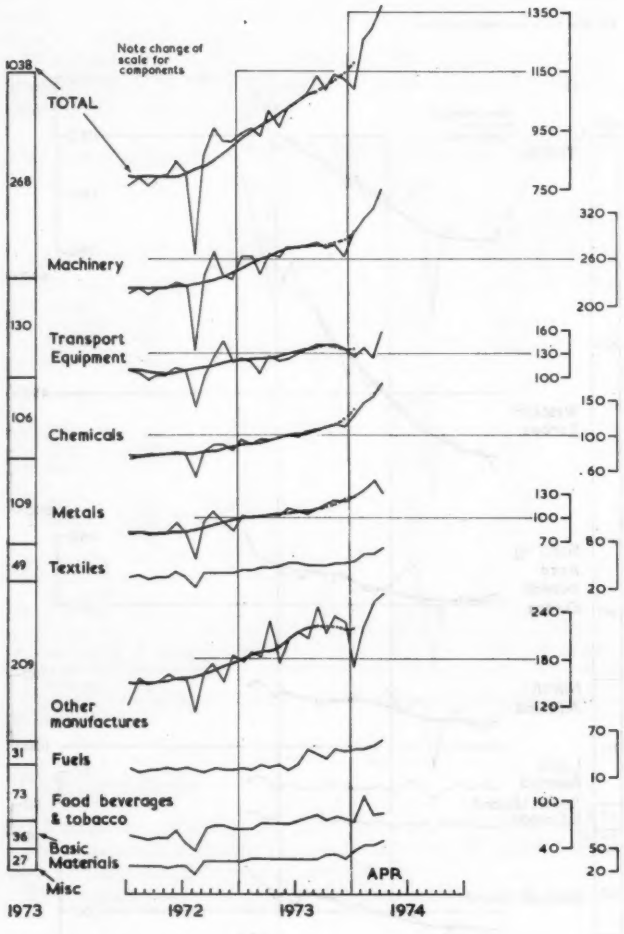
¶ See Note 1(b).
r Revised estimates.
p Provisional estimates.

commodity group shipments of machinery increased by 19 per cent while deliveries of road motor vehicles rose by 1 per cent. Exports of non-manufactured goods in aggregate increased by 20 per cent.

Exports by Commodity

on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis excluding adjustments for special factors affecting recording

£ million f.o.b. seasonally adjusted



(c) Imports. The value of imports in April was £1,667 million, seasonally adjusted on a balance of payments basis, much the same level as in March. Oil imports increased by £20 million between these months reflecting a further rise in the import price of crude oil which in April was £31 per ton fob compared with £29 per ton fob in March and £8 per ton fob in the third quarter of 1973 (see Table 9).

In the three months February-April, imports averaged, £1636 million a month, 21 per cent higher than in the previous three months; oil imports rose by 103 per cent and non-oil imports by 10 per cent. Among the major commodity groups there was an increase of 21 per cent in imports of both basic materials and semi-manufactured goods between these periods and within the latter category there was a rise of 28 per cent in imports of chemicals. Imports of finished manufactures rose by less than 1 per cent, with machinery imports rising by 6 per cent and transport equipment declining by 16 per cent.

Among the major sources of our imports, arrivals from Western Europe were 17 per cent higher in February-April than in the previous three months with imports from the EEC rising by 20 per cent. Imports from the Sterling Area outside Europe were 21 per cent higher while those from North America increased by 7 per cent. Deliveries from the rest of the world in aggregate rose by 44 per cent in part due to the higher value of oil imports.

Notes

1(a) Trade figures on a balance of payments basis. The seasonally adjusted import and export figures on a balance of payments basis are obtained by making various adjustments to the seasonally adjusted figures derived from those recorded in the monthly *Overseas Trade Statistics*. These adjustments are summarised in Tables 2 and 3 of this article. Some are valuation adjustments; the principal of these is the deduction from the import figure of freight and insurance costs. The other adjustments relate to coverage, either to bring in items not in the Trade Statistics (for example on the import side ships built and delivered abroad direct to UK owners) or to remove items which are in the Trade Statistics (mainly returned goods and goods for processing and repair). The adjustment of imports to a balance of payments basis excludes the values of deliveries of US military aircraft (including spares and some missiles) but includes the payments for those imports which are mainly being financed by a special US Exim Bank credit. (The values involved are now small.) All these adjustments are described in greater detail in the annual '*Pink Book*', *United Kingdom Balance of Payments* 1973' (Table 6 and pp 62-66) and in an article in the issue of '*Trade and Industry*' dated 4 November 1970.

Since firm figures for the adjustments do not become available as quickly as the recorded trade statistics, the figures for imports and exports on a balance of payments basis in the latest months are at this stage preliminary and liable to revision.

TABLE 6 Exports: Commodity classes¶

Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values

£ million fob per month

					Manufactures									
						Machinery and transport equipment								
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
1973	1,038	73	36	31	871	398	268	92	38	106	109	49	209	27
1973 2nd quarter	1,005	71	35	22	853	393	267	88	33	102	106	49	205	25
3rd quarter	1,084	78	35	38	907	416	279	92	43	108	109	51	223	27
4th quarter	1,117	77	40	41	928	410	272	99	44	117	120	52	225	32
1974 1st quarter p r	1,213	88	51	46	994	435	309	97	36	144	137	62	215	30
1974 February p	1,253	106	53	46	1,027	452	312	97	42	147	137	64	222	23
March p	1,292	83	52	48	1,064	442	324	101	33	157	148	66	254	39
April p	1,372	85	59	56	1,166	513	352	101	47	174	131	71	266	35
1973 Nov.-Jan. 1974	1,119	76	42	45	921	409	277	98	39	121	123	54	210	32
1974 Feb.-April p	1,306	91	55	50	1,086	469	329	100	41	159	139	67	247	32

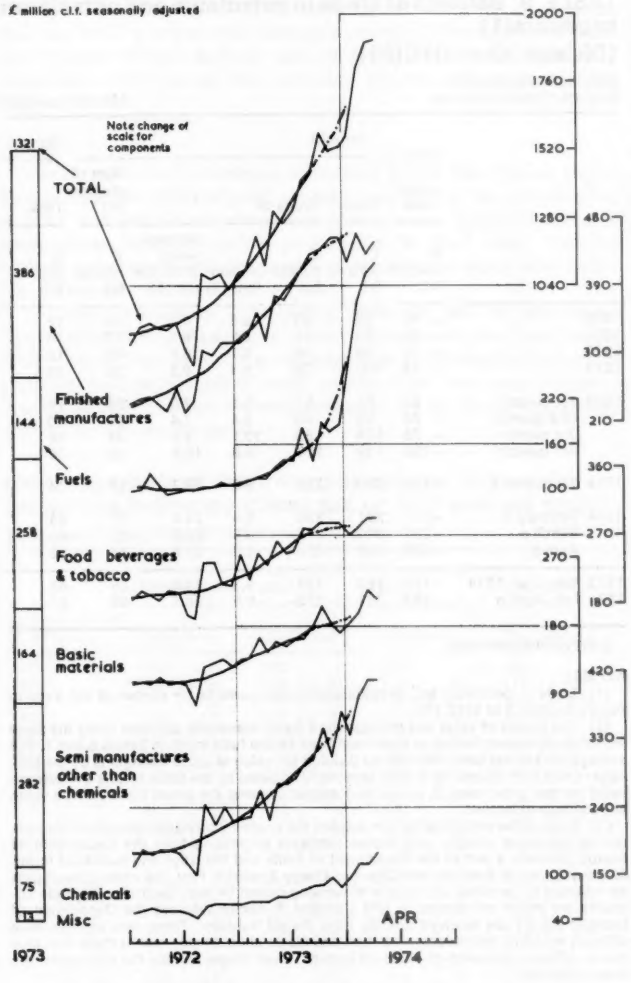
¶ See Note 1(b)
r Revised estimates
p Provisional estimates

1(b) The adjustments described at Note 1(a) are made only for the monthly totals of exports and imports, and cannot be estimated for the area and commodity analyses of trade. The values of total trade and the main components of exports and imports in Tables 5 to 8 are available only on the Overseas Trade Statistics basis and correspond with the totals given in the first columns of Tables 2 and 3. Whereas comment on total trade relates to total exports and imports on a balance of payments basis, analyses of the area and commodity patterns of trade in this article are based on the figures on the Overseas Trade Statistics basis in Tables 5 to 8. The main components of trade are seasonally adjusted independently from the totals and in consequence do not always add exactly to the seasonally adjusted totals.

Imports by Commodity

on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£ million c.i.f. seasonally adjusted



1(c) Visible balance. The visible balance is the difference between the import and export figures on a balance of payments basis obtained as described in Note 1(a) above. Since as noted above, the import and export figures for the most recent months are provisional, it follows that the monthly visible balances for these months are also provisional.

The monthly figures for the visible balance are published only on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since the balance is the difference of two large and variable figures, it is itself liable to fluctuation and undue significance should not be attached to a single month's figure; it is more useful to consider the average balance over three or more months.

1(d) Trends. Even after allowing for seasonal influences, the sequence of monthly figures is usually too variable to give a satisfactory indication of the underlying trend. While it is possible to construct elaborate estimates of trend these cannot be applied to the most recent months, and a simple method of giving some guidance on underlying movements in the most recent past is to take averages of three months. Apart from occasions when major disturbances distort the flows of trade, the three-monthly average gives a quite good short-term guide and has the merit of simplicity.

1(e) Recording of exports. The new system for the documentation of exports to ensure their full recording has applied to goods shipped from October 25, 1971 (see *Trade and Industry* August 19, 1971)

Regular assessments of the quality of recording under the new system have shown that, since the beginning of 1972, there has been no need to make adjustments to the export figures for either a shortfall in documentation or a change in the speed of submission of documents.

The new system for recording exports and the methods used to monitor its accuracy are described in an article in *Trade and Industry* 15 February 1973.

1(f) Timing. The figures for exports relate to documents received in the Statistical Office of HM Customs and Excise up to a few days before the end of the calendar month. On average export documents arrive at the Customs Statistical Office within a fortnight of the shipment of goods, so that the documents relate to goods passing through the ports in the month ending about the middle of the calendar month to which they are attributed. The figures for imports relate to documents received at the Customs Statistical Office up to the third working day after the end of the month. Importers are

TABLE 7 Imports: Commodity classes¶

Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values

£ million cif per month

					Industrial materials				Finished manufactures					
										Machinery and transport equipment				
		Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment	Other	Miscellaneous
1973		1,321	258	144	520	164	75	282	386	198	54	22	112	13
1973	2nd quarter	1,226	246	127	477	154	67	256	355	183	47	16	107	11
	3rd quarter	1,388	269	153	543	169	80	294	412	210	64	25	116	14
	4th quarter	1,541	285	185	615	185	90	340	447	227	57	29	131	15
1974	1st quarter p r	1,758	281	332	688	203	109	375	440	238	49	18	135	14
1974	February p	1,807	280	347	696	198	114	384	459	242	57	23	134	13
	March p	1,894	290	385	751	229	114	407	433	239	47	13	140	17
	April p	1,906	291	400	756	217	129	409	448	250	47	14	140	14
1973	Nov.-Jan. 1974	1,540	280	210	608	178	93	337	444	230	51	28	132	14
1974	Feb.-April p	1,869	287	378	734	215	119	400	447	244	50	17	138	15

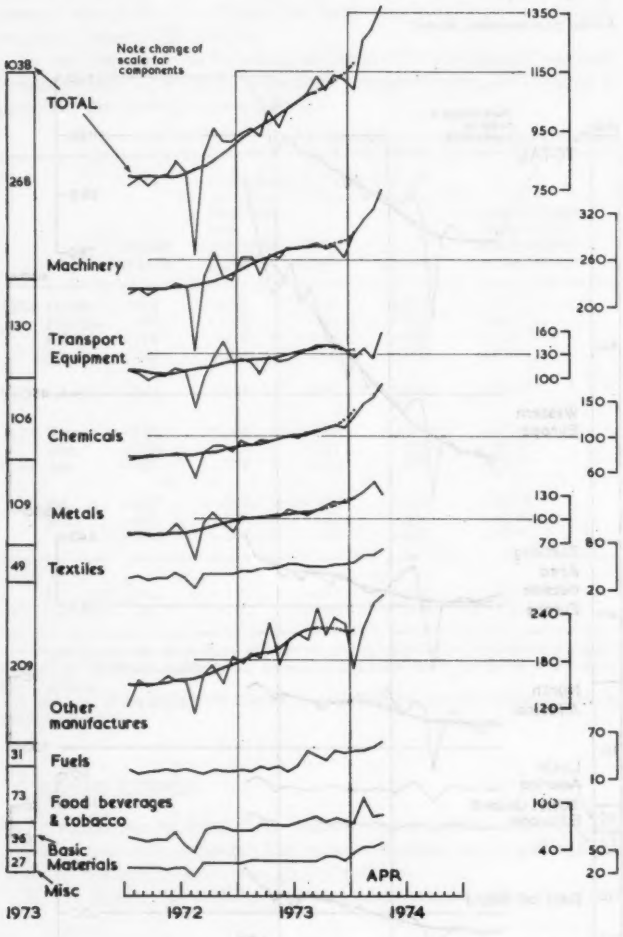
¶ See Note 1(b)
r Revised estimates
p Provisional estimates

commodity group shipments of machinery increased by 19 per cent while deliveries of road motor vehicles rose by 1 per cent. Exports of non-manufactured goods in aggregate increased by 20 per cent.

Exports by Commodity

on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis excluding adjustments for special factors affecting recording

£ million f.o.b. seasonally adjusted



(c) **Imports.** The value of imports in April was £1,667 million, seasonally adjusted on a balance of payments basis, much the same level as in March. Oil imports increased by £20 million between these months reflecting a further rise in the import price of crude oil which in April was £31 per ton fob compared with £29 per ton fob in March and £8 per ton fob in the third quarter of 1973 (see Table 9).

In the three months February-April, imports averaged, £1636 million a month, 21 per cent higher than in the previous three months; oil imports rose by 103 per cent and non-oil imports by 10 per cent. Among the major commodity groups there was an increase of 21 per cent in imports of both basic materials and semi-manufactured goods between these periods and within the latter category there was a rise of 28 per cent in imports of chemicals. Imports of finished manufactures rose by less than 1 per cent, with machinery imports rising by 6 per cent and transport equipment declining by 16 per cent.

Among the major sources of our imports, arrivals from Western Europe were 17 per cent higher in February-April than in the previous three months with imports from the EEC rising by 20 per cent. Imports from the Sterling Area outside Europe were 21 per cent higher while those from North America increased by 7 per cent. Deliveries from the rest of the world in aggregate rose by 44 per cent in part due to the higher value of oil imports.

Notes

1(a) Trade figures on a balance of payments basis. The seasonally adjusted import and export figures on a balance of payments basis are obtained by making various adjustments to the seasonally adjusted figures derived from those recorded in the monthly *Overseas Trade Statistics*. These adjustments are summarised in Tables 2 and 3 of this article. Some are valuation adjustments; the principal of these is the deduction from the import figure of freight and insurance costs. The other adjustments relate to coverage, either to bring in items not in the Trade Statistics (for example on the import side ships built and delivered abroad direct to UK owners) or to remove items which are in the Trade Statistics (mainly returned goods and goods for processing and repair). The adjustment of imports to a balance of payments basis excludes the values of deliveries of US military aircraft (including spares and some missiles) but includes the payments for those imports which are mainly being financed by a special US Exim Bank credit. (The values involved are now small.) All these adjustments are described in greater detail in the annual '*Pink Book*', *United Kingdom Balance of Payments* 1973' (Table 6 and pp 62-66) and in an article in the issue of '*Trade and Industry*' dated 4 November 1970.

Since firm figures for the adjustments do not become available as quickly as the recorded trade statistics, the figures for imports and exports on a balance of payments basis in the latest months are at this stage preliminary and liable to revision.

TABLE 6 Exports: Commodity classes¶
Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob per month

						Manufactures									
							Machinery and transport equipment								
		Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
1973		1,038	73	36	31	871	398	268	92	38	106	109	49	209	27
1973	2nd quarter	1,005	71	35	22	853	393	267	88	33	102	106	49	205	25
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	4th quarter	1,117	77	40	41	928	410	272	99	44	117	120	52	225	32
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	March p	1,292	83	52	48	1,064	442	324	101	33	157	148	65	254	39
	April p	1,372	85	59	56	1,166	513	352	101	47	174	131	71	266	35
1973	Nov.-Jan. 1974	1,119	76	42	45	921	409	277	98	39	121	123	54	210	32
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¶ See Note 1(b)
r Revised estimates
p Provisional estimates

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Imports by Commodity

on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£ million c.i.f. seasonally adjusted

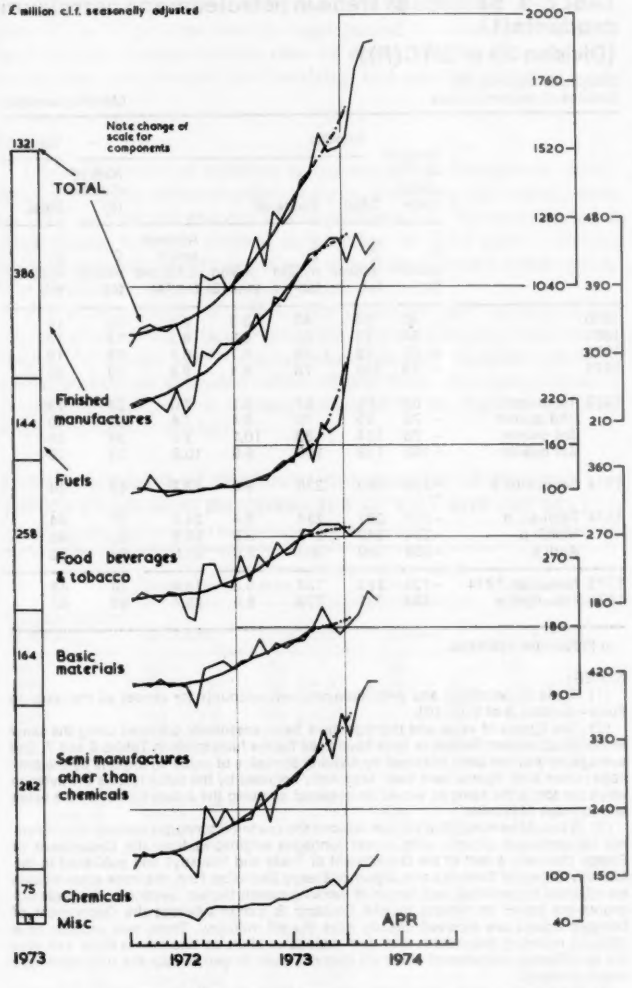

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TABLE 7 Imports: Commodity classes¶
Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values

£ million cif per month

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures					
									Machinery and transport equipment				
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment	Other	Miscellaneous
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3rd quarter	1,388	269	153	543	169	80	294	412	210	64	25	116	14
4th quarter	1,541	285	185	615	185	90	340	447	227	57	29	131	15
1974 1st quarter p r	1,758	281	332	688	203	109	375	440	238	49	18	135	14
1974 February p	1,807	280	347	696	198	114	384	459	242	57	23	134	13
March p	1,894	290	385	751	229	114	407	433	239	47	13	140	17
April p	1,906	291	400	756	217	129	409	448	250	47	14	140	14
1973 Nov.-Jan. 1974	1,540	280	210	608	178	93	337	444	230	51	28	132	14
1974 Feb.-April p	1,869	287	378	734	215	119	400	447	244	50	17	138	15

¶ See Note 1(b)
r Revised estimates
p Provisional estimates

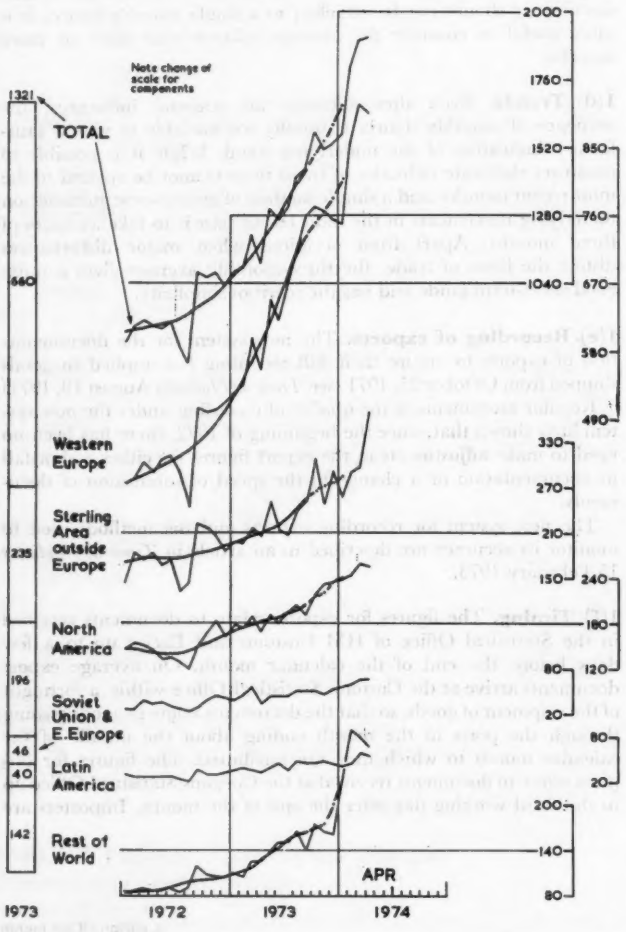
usually required to present their documents before they can obtain customs clearance and remove the goods. Thus the import statistics correspond closely to movements through the ports during the calendar month to which they are attributed.

1(g) The invisible balance (services and other current transactions) covers the following items: Government services and transfer payments; all other services including transport, travel and banking and financial transactions; net overseas income in the form of interest, profits and dividends; and private transfers.

Imports by Areas

on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£million c.i.f. seasonally adjusted



2 Overseas trade statistics. Detailed particulars of United Kingdom imports and exports for April with cumulative totals will be published in due course† and further analysis of the figures will be found in tables in the *Monthly Digest* for June‡ due to be published in the second week of July.

† *Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom*, published by HMSO, price £1.85 (Annual subscription £25.05).

‡ *Monthly Digest of Statistics*, published by HMSO, price 63p (Annual subscription including supplement of definitions and postage, £8.60).

TABLE 9 Balance of trade in petroleum and petroleum products(1)
(Division 33 of SITC(R))

Seasonally adjusted (2)
Balance of payments basis — Monthly averages

	Balance of visible trade	Imports					Exports
		Total	Crude oil			Rest of division (5)	Total
	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	million tons (3)	Average value £ fob per ton (4)	£ million fob	£ million fob
1970	– 40	55	40	8.3	4.8	15	15
1971	– 54	72	55	8.8	6.3	17	18
1972	– 57	75	56	8.7	6.5	19	18
1973	– 79	107	78	9.4	8.3	29	28
1973 1st quarter	– 62	81	57	8.1	7.0	24	19
2nd quarter	– 75	95	70	9.4	7.4	25	20
3rd quarter	– 78	114	80	10.1	7.9	34	36
4th quarter	–100	139	106	9.8	10.8	33	39
1974 1st quarter p	–236	280	228	9.6	23.7	52	44
1974 February p	–247	291	234	9.4	24.9	57	44
March p	–294	340	278	9.6	28.9	62	46
April p	–308	360	306	9.8	31.5	54	52
1973 Nov.-Jan. 1974	–121	163	134	9.3	14.4	29	42
1974 Feb.-April p	–284	331	273	9.6	28.4	58	47

p Provisional estimates

NOTES:

(1) Trade in petroleum and petroleum products accounts for almost all the trade in Fuels – Section 3 of SITC (R).

(2) The figures of value and tonnage have been seasonally adjusted using the same seasonal adjustment factors as have been used for the fuels totals in Tables 6 and 7. The average per ton has been obtained by dividing the value of crude oil imports by the tonnage: since both figures have been seasonally adjusted by the same factors the average value per ton is the same as would be obtained by using the actual figures of the value and tonnage of imports.

(3) It should be noted that for two reasons the crude oil tonnages quoted above cannot be compared directly with import tonnages originating from the Department of Energy (formerly a part of the Department of Trade and Industry) and published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* and *Digest of Energy Statistics*. First, the trade account data are adjusted by seasonal and length of working month factors. Secondly, the trade accounts are based on reports to HM Customs & Excise whereas the Department of Energy's figures are received directly from the oil industry. These two sources have different reporting procedures and over periods as short as one month these can give rise to different estimates of crude oil imports. Over longer periods the differences are largely resolved.

(4) The average value per ton, obtained on an fob basis, will reflect not only changes in price but also changes in the commodity mix of imports due, for example, to differing qualities of crude oil.

(5) Includes petroleum partly refined for further refining and petroleum products (eg motor spirit, lamp oil and white spirit, distillate fuels, residual fuel oils, lubricating oils and greases etc).

TABLE 8 Imports: Areas¶
Overseas trade statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif per month

	Total	Sterling area outside Europe	Western Europe inc. Irish Republic			North America	Latin America	Soviet Union and Eastern Europe	Rest of World
			Total	EEC	EFTA				
1973	1,321	235	660	433	198	196	40	46	142
1973 2nd quarter	1,226	222	609	408	176	180	38	40	136
3rd quarter	1,388	234	714	466	221	197	42	47	152
4th quarter	1,541	282	763	498	225	228	45	51	166
1974 1st quarter p r	1,758	282	840	570	238	245	48	61	273
1974 February p	1,807	291	860	596	241	242	43	60	300
March p	1,894	297	908	608	255	257	56	65	291
April p	1,906	370	895	600	262	255	54	66	278
1973 Nov.-Jan. 1974	1,540	265	758	500	222	234	44	53	185
1974 Feb.-April p	1,869	319	888	601	252	251	52	64	290

p Provisional estimates
r Revised estimates
¶ See Note 1(b)

Turnover of the motor trades in the first quarter of 1974

The total turnover of the motor trades in the first quarter of 1974 was 9 per cent less than a year earlier. This marked downturn reflects the first full quarter's experience of the problems arising from the energy situation, which had only partially affected the previous quarter.

Sales of new vehicles in the first quarter of 1974 were 19 per cent less than a year earlier, while used vehicle sales fell even more sharply, by 28 per cent over the same period. In contrast other sales and receipts (which include sales of petrol, oil, tyres, spares and accessories, and receipts from servicing and repairs) rose by 11 per cent.

Notes

The statistics are of turnover at current prices. Movements therefore include the effect of price changes, including the introduction of VAT and car tax and changes in purchase tax. Turnover includes transactions between dealers in addition to final sales. Vehicles include commercial vehicles as well as private cars and motor cycles. The figures are *not* seasonally adjusted.

The returns made by a voluntary panel are used to project the figures of turnover, obtained in a comprehensive inquiry to all motor traders, in a 'base year'. It is expected that more detailed quarterly statistics will be compiled when results from the comprehensive inquiry for 1972, which is being processed by the Business Statistics Office, become available.

Index numbers of turnover per quarter at current prices (including purchase tax or VAT and car tax)

Percentage change compared with a year earlier in brackets 1967 = 100

	Total turnover	New vehicle sales	Used vehicle sales	Other sales
Turnover in 1967 (£ million)	(£4,234m)	(£1,510m)	(£766m)	(£1,958m)
1967	100	100	100	100
1968	109 (+ 9)	109 (+ 9)	105 (+ 5)	110 (+10)
1969	112 (+ 2)	105 (− 4)	102 (− 3)	120 (+ 9)
1970	126 (+13)	122 (+16)	117 (+14)	132 (+10)
1971	149 (+19)	158 (+29)	142 (+22)	146 (+11)
1972	173 (+16)	196 (+24)	159 (+12)	161 (+10)
1973	192 (+11)	216 (+10)	164 (+ 3)	184 (+14)
1968 1st qtr.	120 (+23)	139 (+37)	121 (+28)	104 (+10)
2nd qtr.	109 (+ 3)	102 (− 7)	108 (− 1)	114 (+13)
3rd qtr.	106 (+ 5)	96 (+ 2)	103 (− 3)	114 (+10)
4th qtr.	103 (+ 6)	100 (+ 6)	88 (− 2)	110 (+10)
1969 1st qtr.	111 (− 7)	113 (−19)	104 (−13)	112 (+ 8)
2nd qtr.	121 (+11)	119 (+17)	115 (+ 6)	124 (+ 9)
3rd qtr.	112 (+ 6)	101 (+ 6)	101 (− 3)	124 (+ 9)
4th qtr.	102 (− 1)	88 (−12)	89 (+ 1)	119 (+ 8)
1970 1st qtr.	124 (+11)	128 (+14)	115 (+11)	123 (+10)
2nd qtr.	133 (+10)	133 (+11)	126 (+ 9)	135 (+ 9)
3rd qtr.	126 (+12)	117 (+16)	116 (+16)	136 (+ 9)
4th qtr.	121 (+18)	111 (+26)	109 (+22)	134 (+13)
1971 1st qtr.	142 (+15)	155 (+21)	134 (+16)	136 (+10)
2nd qtr.	152 (+15)	160 (+21)	148 (+18)	147 (+ 9)
3rd qtr.	157 (+25)	164 (+40)	153 (+31)	153 (+13)
4th qtr.	146 (+21)	152 (+36)	133 (+22)	147 (+10)
1972 1st qtr.	166 (+17)	190 (+23)	158 (+18)	151 (+11)
2nd qtr.	182 (+20)	213 (+33)	169 (+14)	162 (+10)
3rd qtr.	176 (+12)	194 (+18)	161 (+ 5)	168 (+10)
4th qtr.	169 (+16)	187 (+23)	149 (+12)	165 (+12)
1973 1st qtr.	204 (+23)	251 (+32)	187 (+19)	175 (+16)
2nd qtr.	193 (+ 6)	220 (+ 3)	168 (− 1)	182 (+12)
3rd qtr.	195 (+11)	215 (+11)	170 (+ 6)	189 (+12)
4th qtr.	175 (+ 3)	177 (− 6)	132 (−11)	190 (+15)
1974 1st qtr.	186 (− 9)	203 (−19)	135 (−28)	194 (+11)

ECGD addresses

The Export Credits Guarantee Department's head office is at Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL (Tel: 01-606 6699). ECGD has 20 local offices in various parts of the United Kingdom; these are listed from time to time in *Trade and Industry*.

Safety of Loads on Vehicles

Code of Practice

People are too often killed or injured in accidents caused by badly secured loads falling off lorries. Carrying a load safely to satisfy the broad terms of the law is the responsibility of everyone in road transport and this code gives full guidance as to how loads should be secured, and needless casualties avoided. It is hoped that everyone concerned in the road transport industry will learn from the code and help to make the incidence of a falling load a thing of the past.

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TABLE 3(a) Commodities produced in the United Kingdom

1970 = 100

1968 SIC		1973 Mar.	1973 Dec.	1974 Jan.	1974 Feb.	1974 Mar. p
101	Coal	131.3	138.8	138.8	138.8	139.8
102/1	Coated limestone roadstone	124.8	134.2	149.9	168.6	180.4
103	Sand and gravel – ex-pit or works	120.1	124.9	125.4	134.1	136.3
240	Tobacco†	102.7	91.7	92.2	92.7	93.0
262	Motor spirit, Two star (including duty)	108.2	119.2	126.1	139.5	148.2
	Medium fuel oil (950 secs – including duty)⊚	132.2	153.2	171.6	219.6	250.9
	Derv fuel (including duty)	107.2	120.0	124.1	135.4	142.6
263	Lubricating oil and greases	121.3	152.6	161.3	179.2	191.8
271	General chemicals	112.1	119.5	128.8	135.9	144.5
272	Pharmaceutical preparations	111.5	114.8	115.8	116.8	118.7
273	Toilet preparations	123.0	125.9	127.8	128.9	130.3
274	Paint	124.7	133.9	135.6	141.4	146.5
276/1	Synthetic resins and plastics materials	104.1	109.1	116.5	132.2	147.0
311/2	Uncoated steel sheets (other than stainless and electrical sheets)	116.5	143.4	146.3	146.8	146.9
	Tinplate	118.5	143.4	152.5	155.7	160.6
	Finished steel	115.3	140.8	143.0	146.7	148.8
	Steel sheet piling	119.4	144.2	144.2	146.5	146.8
	Heavy steel bars and sections	119.0	143.8	143.4	146.5	146.8
	Light re-rolled bars and sections	117.7	153.2	153.8	156.1	160.3
312	Steel tubes – other than electric conduit tubes	122.1	132.4	148.8	151.7	151.7
313/3 and 313/4	Iron castings	125.2	137.4	141.6	144.6	146.1
313/4	Cast and spun iron pipes and fittings	123.3	131.8	142.5	144.3	145.5
321	Aluminium: Rolled	113.0	123.2	123.2	125.2	128.2
	Extruded and drawn aluminium products – other than wire	115.5	123.9	123.9	126.3	128.7
	Aluminium: Castings	116.5	132.6	140.2	144.2	149.0
	Aluminium: Forgings	111.4	116.9	116.9	116.9	123.3
322	Brass ingots	107.3	145.2	146.5	156.6	177.1
331	Agricultural machinery	125.3	141.9	143.2	144.2	144.9
333	Pumps, valves, compressors, fluid power equipment	121.6	133.0	135.9	139.2	140.6
336	Construction and earth moving equipment	124.9	133.4	137.8	140.1	140.8
368	Domestic electrical appliances	113.6	118.4	119.2	119.9	121.8
390	Engineers' cutting tools	115.3	122.4	124.0	124.7	127.6
	Engineers' cutting tools: non-diamond	115.9	122.5	123.9	124.6	127.4
	Engineers' cutting tools: diamond	107.4	116.4	117.2	119.8	125.0
	Hacksaw blades	115.4	129.4	130.8	131.8	133.8
391	Hand tools and implements	125.4	135.2	137.4	139.4	144.6
392	Cutlery and tableware	120.0	130.2	136.4	138.3	141.1
411	Man-made fibres production	104.1	107.4	107.7	108.9	117.8
412, 414/5 and 415	All spun man-made fibres, yarns	118.9	137.2	141.6	147.5	151.7
412	Cotton yarns, cotton-spun man-made fibres yarns and mixtures of both	121.4	178.5	189.2	196.7	197.1
413	Woven cotton cloth in the loomstate	122.8	165.0	179.8	183.6	184.5
	Man-made fibres fabrics in the loomstate	122.0	148.4	152.0	153.0	153.4
414/2	Yarns of wool spun on the worsted system	189.6	194.0	196.1	196.7	194.4
417	Hosiery and other knitted goods	110.8	123.5	125.8	128.1	131.7
419	Carpets and rugs	125.5	136.5	139.2	142.0	143.4
431/1	Leather for footwear	170.6	157.5	158.8	161.1	..
441/449	Made-up clothing	115.9	126.0	130.5	131.4	132.2
450	Footwear – including rubber footwear	126.2	134.3	137.3	140.0	143.3
461/1	Refractory goods including bricks	121.8	127.8	131.1	133.7	147.6
461/2	Non-refractory goods, including building bricks	132.8	139.9	142.2	149.4	157.8
	Engineering bricks – *delivered*	152.2	163.0	177.1	179.8	197.1
464	Cement – *delivered*	127.4	127.4	127.4	127.4	127.4
471/1	Hardwood – home grown	132.6	209.3	212.0	214.9	215.4
471/2	Building joinery	143.1	173.7	177.8	177.8	183.4
472	Domestic furniture	123.2	138.3	144.1	146.8	149.3
473	Bedding, etc.	123.3	144.1	147.4	159.3	160.5
481	Paper and board	115.0	128.3	139.2	144.4	147.5
	Printings and writings (excluding newsprint)	116.6	128.1	139.0	144.3	145.8
482/1	Cardboard boxes, cartons and fibreboard packing cases	116.9	132.7	137.7	142.9	145.4
483	Manufactured stationery	122.7	136.2	141.4	146.6	149.4
484/1	Wallpaper	125.6	131.8	131.8 p	131.8 p	136.0
491/1	Rubber tyres and tubes	118.5	124.0	125.2 r	131.3	131.5
492	Linoleum and felt base	115.6	117.4	117.4	128.5	132.9

† Reductions in the VAT-exclusive price of tobacco took place in April 1973. This reduction resulted from lower revenue duties designed to offset additional tax revenue from VAT.
⊚ Index based on scheduled outer zone prices for minimum bulk loads of 500 gallons exclusive of rebates. r revised.

TABLE 3(b) Commodities wholly or mainly imported into the United Kingdom

1970 = 100

	1973 Apr.	1974 Jan.	1974 Feb.	1974 Mar.	1974 Apr.
Hides and skins	211.5	207.0	213.4	204.6	195.0 p
Non-ferrous metals:					
Aluminium, virgin ingot delivered	89.9	106.5	106.5	114.3	123.7
Copper‡	108.3	154.7	170.7	198.6	215.1
Lead‡	122.9	200.5	225.0	238.9	231.7
Nickel refined delivered§	114.2	127.2	131.3	134.9	130.1
Tin, ingot min. 99.75%‡	112.5	191.8	216.3	230.1	251.5
Zinc‡	167.5	485.3	540.8	564.9	591.1
Zinc§	148.5	234.5	234.5	246.7	257.9
Natural rubber	132.1	264.4	237.7	214.6	193.8
Sulphur, crude cif (for acid making)	100.2	151.1	151.1	151.1	151.1
Textiles:					
Cotton, raw	143.5	326.6	294.3	256.0	240.4
Wool, raw	313.4	314.7	297.0	283.0 p	269.1 p
Timber:					
Imported hardwood (ex-yard or wharf)	174.5	241.0	249.4	249.3 p	250.1 p
Imported plywood (delivered to consumers)	140.4	225.4	228.5	229.5 p	229.5 p
Imported softwood (delivered to consumers)	159.5	258.3	262.1	263.0 p	263.0 p
Woodpulp, imported	111.2	163.0	161.3	160.5	161.6

‡ LME settlement price. § Producer's price.

Index numbers of wholesale prices

The index numbers of wholesale prices relating to 1970 = 100 supersede those previously published on the base 1963 = 100. For the convenience of those who use the index numbers in long-term contracts to take account of changes in the costs of materials, the D/Industry will continue to publish indices relating to materials used in broad sectors of industry on the base 1963 = 100 until December 1975. From April 1973 the index numbers in the accompanying table have been given the month to month movements of the equivalent index in the 1970 = 100 Series. For users of other 1963 based index numbers who wish to continue the series in this way, multiplication factors will be provided on request.

Price index numbers of materials purchased 1963 = 100

1968 SIC		1974		
		Feb.	Mar. p	Apr. p
Orders III to XIX	Basic materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry: [1]	271.0	273.4	273.8
	Basic materials [2]	282.8	284.3	282.9
	Fuel [3]	159.3	170.7	187.0
Orders IV to XIX	Basic materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry, other than food, drink and tobacco manufacturing industries [4]	283.3	286.9	293.5
	Basic materials other than fuel [5]	305.5	308.0	312.8
211 to 299	Food manufacturing industries [6]	235.7	236.8	227.0
Order V	Chemicals and allied industries [7]	232.2	239.3	242.0
311 to 312	Steel industries [8]	180.9	186.8	200.9
Order VII (excluding MHL 342)	Mechanical engineering industries [9]	204.1	210.4	227.3
Order IX	Electrical engineering industries [10]	241.2	256.2	272.7
361	Electrical machinery industry [11]	222.3	231.8	250.7
Order XIII	Textile industries [12]	214.0	213.3	211.8
Order XV	Clothing and footwear industries	193.8	198.0	201.9
Order XVII	Timber industries [13]	281.7	284.5	289.3
481 to 484	Paper industries [14]	208.5	212.5	219.7
Order XX	Construction materials [15]	211.6	216.8	223.3
Part of Order XX	House building materials	218.8	224.5	230.7

Revised figures:	Dec. 1973	Jan. 1974
[1]		266.3
[2]		277.9
[3]		157.3
[4]		278.7
[5]	244.4	300.4
[6]		230.6
[7]		222.5
[8]		174.1
[9]		197.9
[10]		229.6
[11]		214.0
[12]		214.1
[13]	267.5	275.9
[14]		201.1
[15]		204.0

New companies registered

Below are details of new companies registered in Great Britain during April 1974 showing nominal capital. The figures are exclusive of unlimited companies and companies limited by guarantee.

Nominal capital	Total	Public companies	Private companies
Not exceeding £100	2,143	—	2,143
Over £100 but under £1,000	94	—	94
£1,000 but under £10,000	1,019	—	1,019
£10,000 but under £50,000	331	—	331
£50,000 but under £100,000	39	—	39
£100,000 but under £1,000,000	46	—	46
£1,000,000 and over	7	—	7
Total number	3,679	—	3,679
	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.
Total amount of nominal capital	50,557	—	50,557

Companies registered in Great Britain in 1973 and 1974

	1973		1974	
	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.
January	4,666	8,050	4,758	27,824
February	5,919	7,762	2,870	81,582
March	6,310	21,762	3,393	21,763
April	5,617	12,632	3,679	50,557
May	5,331	9,111		
June	4,752	30,575		
July	5,245	17,291		
August	6,371	16,843		
September	4,988	28,337		
October	5,945	11,918		
November	6,132	36,871		
December	5,330	22,843		
Total	66,606	223,995		

Domestic furniture deliveries in March

Monthly figures of domestic furniture deliveries and orders in hand for the period February 1973 to March 1974.

	Manufacturers deliveries of domestic furniture £ million	Value of orders in hand at end of month £ million	Seasonally adjusted volume indices (1963 = 100)	
			Deliveries	Orders in hand
1973				
February	31.8	129.0	205	564
March	36.0	132.9	219	618
April	29.7	139.8	198	623
May	35.3	141.8	209	608
June	34.8	142.5	211	627
July	29.5	140.1	215	588
August	31.0	142.7	200	527
September	38.3	135.1	213	499
October	41.9 p	132.5 p	191 p	468 p
November	41.3 p	127.5 p	191 p	444 p
December	29.2 p	126.5 p	169 p	495 p
1974				
January	32.0 p	123.8 p	170 p	498 p
February	31.1 p	133.9 p	169 p	493 p
March	36.8 p	130.7 p	194 p	505 p

The figures for October 1973 to March 1974 are provisional and subject to revision in the light of the results of the quarterly sales inquiry for the fourth quarter of 1973 and first quarter of 1974.

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Quarterly analysis of man-made fibres production

Production by weight of synthetic fibres in the first quarter of 1974 was 6 per cent less than in the corresponding period of 1973, while production of viscose and acetate fibres was 4 per cent less. Within the total for synthetic fibres, production of continuous filament yarn decreased by 12 per cent and staple fibre increased by 2 per cent. Under the heading 'viscose and acetate', production of both continuous filament yarn and staple fibre decreased by 4 per cent compared with the first quarter of 1973.

Analysis of man-made fibre production Thousand metric tons

	Total		Continuous filament		Staple fibre	
	Synthetic	Viscose +acetate	Synthetic	Viscose +acetate	Synthetic	Viscose +acetate
1968	268.4	270.8	144.3	97.5	124.1	173.3
1969	291.4	262.5	155.9	96.6	135.5	166.0
1970	336.9	262.5	166.6	90.9	170.3	171.6
1971	357.3	255.7	191.2	85.2	166.1	170.6
1972	373.9	252.6	196.4	67.6	177.5	185.0
1973	453.9	277.0	233.0	72.6	220.9	204.4
1972 1st quarter	88.1	57.7	44.9	14.7	43.2	43.0
2nd quarter	95.5	66.4	48.0	17.8	47.5	48.6
3rd quarter	88.5	61.4	46.2	16.9	42.3	44.5
4th quarter	102.0	67.2	57.3	18.2	44.7	49.0
1973 1st quarter	111.8	71.7	59.7	18.4	52.1	53.3
2nd quarter	116.2	70.0	60.6	18.8	55.6	51.2
3rd quarter	107.9	63.5	54.1	16.5	53.8	47.0
4th quarter	118.0	71.9	58.5	19.0	59.5	52.9
1974 1st quarter	105.3	68.7	52.4	17.6	52.9	51.1

The heading 'Viscose + acetate' includes triacetate.

United Kingdom Mineral Statistics 1973

This new volume, compiled by the Institute of Geological Sciences, to meet a widely expressed demand, is the first collective review of all mineral statistics, bringing together hitherto scattered or unpublished data and venturing new information or estimates to fill previous gaps in knowledge. The contents range from Minerals in the Economy, Mineral Production and Overseas Trade, to Commodity Reviews, and Commodity Summaries detailing output trade and consumption of a large number of minerals and their derivatives, from Abrasives to Zirconium. Data for England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and individual counties are featured, and the statistics—in metric units throughout—are illustrated by numerous diagrams.

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Production of man-made fibres in March

In the first quarter of 1974 the volume of production of man-made fibres, seasonally adjusted, was estimated to have been 9 per cent lower than in the fourth quarter of 1973. Total production by weight of man-made fibres in the period January-March 1974 was 5 per cent lower than in the corresponding period of 1973; output of continuous filament decreased by 10 per cent and staple fibre decreased by 1 per cent.

Man-made fibre production Thousand metric tons

	Total	Continuous filament (singles)	Staple fibre
1968	539.1	241.8	297.4
1969	553.9	252.5	301.5
1970	599.4	257.6	341.9
1971	613.1	276.4	336.7
1972	626.5	264.0	362.5
1973	730.8	305.6	425.3
1973 1st quarter	183.5	78.1	105.4
2nd quarter	186.1	79.4	106.7
3rd quarter	171.4	70.6	100.8
4th quarter	189.9	77.5	112.4
1974 1st quarter	174.0	69.9	104.1
1973 January	60.0	25.8	34.2
February	55.5	22.8	32.7
March	67.9	29.4	38.5
April	59.4	24.3	35.1
May	62.5	26.6	35.9
June	64.2	28.5	35.7
July	59.5	24.1	35.4
August	55.0	22.0	33.0
September	56.8	24.5	32.3
October	67.1	27.3	39.7
November	63.0	25.9	37.1
December	59.8	24.3	35.5
1974 January	57.1	21.7	35.4
February	54.9	22.4	32.5
March	62.1	25.9	36.2

Index of the volume of production 1970 = 100

1968	87
1969	92
1970	100
1971	106
1972	107
1973	127

	Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1973 1st quarter	129	127
2nd quarter	131	128
3rd quarter	118	125
4th quarter	130	129
1974 1st quarter	120	117
1973 January	124	120
February	123	121
March	141	140
April	125	122
May	128	123
June	140	139
July	120	124
August	112	126
September	124	125
October	137	136
November	134	129
December	120	122
1974 January	112	110
February	122	120
March	125	121

The actual figures allow for differences in the length of calendar months but not for holidays or other seasonal variations. The seasonally adjusted figures are based on the seasonal pattern up to the end of 1972, and may be subject to slight revision when the complete figures for 1973 are incorporated.

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Deliveries of man-made fibres in the first quarter of 1974

Total deliveries of man-made fibres in the first quarter of 1974 were 7 per cent less than in the first quarter of 1973. Deliveries of continuous filament yarns to the home trade were 14 per cent less than in the first quarter of 1973, while deliveries of staple fibre were 15 per cent less.

Deliveries of continuous filament yarns (*a*)

Thousand metric tons

		Home							
	Total	Total	Broad weaving	Carpets and rugs	Weft knitting	Warp knitting	Industrial purposes (tyres etc.)	Other purposes	Exports as yarn (*b*)
1968	238.4	188.9	35.3	4.7	54.9	32.0	52.2	9.8	49.4
1969	242.7	193.6	33.7	5.5	51.9	35.3	58.8	8.4	49.1
1970	254.8	198.1	28.2	7.1	63.7	38.0	53.3	7.8	56.7
1971	261.4	198.7	25.3	8.7	69.9	41.4	43.5	9.9	62.7

		Home							
	Total	Total	Broad weaving	Carpets and rugs	Warp knitting	Industrial purposes (tyres, etc.)	Other purposes	Textured or texturing for all purposes other than carpets or industrial	Exports as yarn (*b*)
1972	270.1	198.7	25.1	13.4	40.4	40.8	10.0	69.0	71.4
1973	313.6	227.5	25.8	19.4	46.6	45.4	13.0	77.4	86.1
1973 1st quarter	82.4	59.0	6.8	4.5	12.3	11.7	3.0	20.7	23.4
2nd quarter	81.8	60.2	6.5	5.3	12.2	12.6	3.4	20.2	21.7
3rd quarter	71.1	50.2	5.7	4.4	10.5	9.9	2.9	16.8	20.8
4th quarter	78.3	58.1	6.9	5.3	11.6	11.1	3.6	19.6	20.2
1974 1st quarter	72.7	50.9	6.8	4.5	10.8	9.0	3.1	19.2	21.7

(*a*) The classification of end uses was revised in January 1968 and the figures for deliveries to individual industries 1968 to 1971 might not be fully comparable with those for earlier years. From January 1972 a further reclassification was introduced: deliveries of textured yarns and yarns for texturing, which were previously included in the figures for individual industries, are shown separately from the first quarter 1972.

(*b*) The figures refer to deliveries from the industry direct for export and may differ from the totals recorded as exports in the monthly trade accounts.

Deliveries of staple fibre (*a*)

Thousand metric tons

		Home					
	Total	Total	Cotton spinning	Wool spinning	Flax spinning	Other systems and sundries	Exports (*b*)
1968	282.4	173.1	52.3	58.2	26.3	36.3	109.3
1969	299.3	169.2	51.1	51.5	28.0	38.6	130.1
1970	329.4	191.4	57.6	57.1	31.5	45.2	138.1
1971	338.7	185.9	59.6	50.1	29.3	46.9	152.9

		Home					
	Total	Total	Cotton spinning	Wool spinning	Other systems and sundries	Exports (*b*)	
1972	363.9	186.4	49.5	33.4	103.5	177.5	
1973	434.8	235.4	62.8	56.0	116.7	199.4	
1973 1st qtr.	106.6	56.7	14.9	12.0	29.8	50.0	
2nd qtr.	108.1	62.2	16.5	14.9	30.9	45.9	
3rd qtr.	103.9	53.4	14.3	12.7	26.5	50.5	
4th qtr.	116.2	63.1	17.1	16.4	29.6	53.1	
1974 1st qtr.	103.8	48.3	12.6	13.0	22.6	55.5	

(a) The classification of end uses was revised in January 1972, and the figures for deliveries to individual industries from the first quarter 1972 are not comparable with those for earlier years.

(*b*) The figures refer to deliveries from the industry direct for export and may differ from the totals recorded as exports in the monthly trade accounts.

Sales in the carpet industry in February

The daily rate of manufacturer's sales by value in February was provisionally estimated to have been 2 per cent more than in February 1973, assuming 20 working days in both months. In the three months ended February 1974, the daily rate of manufacturer's sales was provisionally estimated to have been at the same level as in the corresponding period 12 months ago; assuming 61 working days in the three months ended in February 1974 and 62 working days in the three months ended February 1973. The index numbers, which are of manufacturers' sales by value, have been adjusted for the length of working month, but not for non-statutory holidays or other seasonal factors. The Wholesale Price Index of carpets is shown as a guide to the movement in prices.

1970 = 100

		Index of manufacturers' sales	Wholesale price index
1969		93	96.6
1970		100	100.0
1971		115	104.9
1972		135	111.7
1973		166	130.2
1972	Quarter ended December	169	118.2
1973	Quarter ended March	160	125.1
	Quarter ended June	171	127.7
	Quarter ended September	149	132.7
	Quarter ended December	183	135.1
1972	November	174	120.0
	December	173	120.2
1973	January	133	124.5
	February	170	125.4
	November	194	135.8
	December	172	136.5
1974	January (a)	131	139.2
	February	173	142.0*

* Provisional

(a) Note industry affected by 3 day week.

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Cinema admissions and takings in February

During February, counted as a four-week period, the weekly average of admissions to cinemas in Great Britain was 2.95 million and the weekly average takings, including VAT was £1.39 million. The comparable figures for February 1973 were 2.78 million and £1.17 million respectively.

Registrations of British, Community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 17 May 1974.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Review No. 9 – 27th Year	BR/E 37459/19/5/79	10	13 May	Data Film Distributors Ltd.	National Coal Board
Craze	BR/E 37469/19/5/79	96	15 May	EMI Film Distributors Ltd.	Herman Cohen Productions Ltd.
Cat and Mouse	BR/E 37470/19/5/79	88	15 May	EMI Film Distributors Ltd.	Associated London Films Ltd.
Cross-Country Go !	BR/E 37475/19/5/79	26	16 May	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
Chinese Vengeance	BR/E 37476/19/5/79	85	16 May	EMI Film Distributors Ltd.	Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd., Kowloon
Death Kick	BR/E 37477/19/5/79	97	16 May	EMI Film Distributors Ltd.	Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd., Kowloon
Movietone News 2345	BR/E 37245/19/5/79	7	17 May	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
Movietone News 2345A	BR/E 37246/19/5/79	8	17 May	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			COMMUNITY		
The Monk	EC 37464/19/5/79	90	15 May	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Maya Films, Paris, Intercontinental Film, Paris, Comacico, Paris, Bendestorf Film, Hamburg and Tritone Film, Rome
Honebun Or How To Tell My Daughter	EC 37465/19/5/79	75	15 May	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Roxy Film GmbH & Co., K.G., Munich
The Way of the Godfather	EC 37466/19/5/79	92	15 May	Gemini Films	Far Film Associates, Ata Films and Art Films, Rome
What ?	EC 37467/19/5/79	113	15 May	International Films Centre Ltd.	Compagnai Cinematografica Champion, Rome, Les Films Concordia, Paris and Dieter Geissler Produktion, Monaco
1. The Territory of the Others 2. Le Territoire Des Autres	EC 37468/19/5/79	90	15 May	Knight Film Distribution Ltd.	Les Cinéastes Animaliers Associes, Paris
			FOREIGN		
One Little Indian	F 37460	91	14 May	Walt Disney Productions Ltd.	Walt Disney Productions
The Dove	F 37461	105	15 May	EMI Film Distributors Ltd.	St. George Productions Inc.
Sleeper	F 37462	88	15 May	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	Jack Rollins & Charles H. Joffee Productions
Visit to A Chief's Son	F 37463	92	15 May	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	Robert Halmi Inc.
Kid Blue	F 37471	100	16 May	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Marvin Schwartz Productions Inc.
Oh ! Calcutta	F 37472	101	16 May	Tigon Film Distributors Ltd.	Cinemation Industries Inc.
The Mender of Nets	F 37473	11	16 May	Gala Film Distributors Ltd.	Mary Pickford Company
An Arcadian Maid	F 37474	11	16 May	Gala Film Distributors Ltd.	Mary Pickford Company

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

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Air transport: trade by air (6M)	18 Oct. 1973
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	This week
trends in invisible transactions (Q)	18 Apr. 1974
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcy orders (Q)	29 Nov. 1973
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	7 Mar. 1974
Capital expenditure:	
distributive and service trades (A)	28 Apr. 1971
manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	4 Apr. 1974
Catering trades turnover (M)	16 May 1974
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	2 Aug. 1973
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	28 Feb. 1974
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Gt. Britain (M)	This week
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Stocks:	
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hosiery production (M)	21 Mar. 1974
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orders and deliveries (M)	21 Mar. 1974
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wool output (M)	28 Mar. 1974
Tourism:	
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Departmental organisation etc.

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Guide to DTI	6 Dec. 1973
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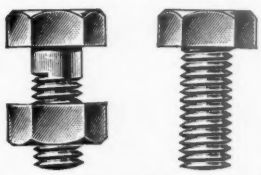

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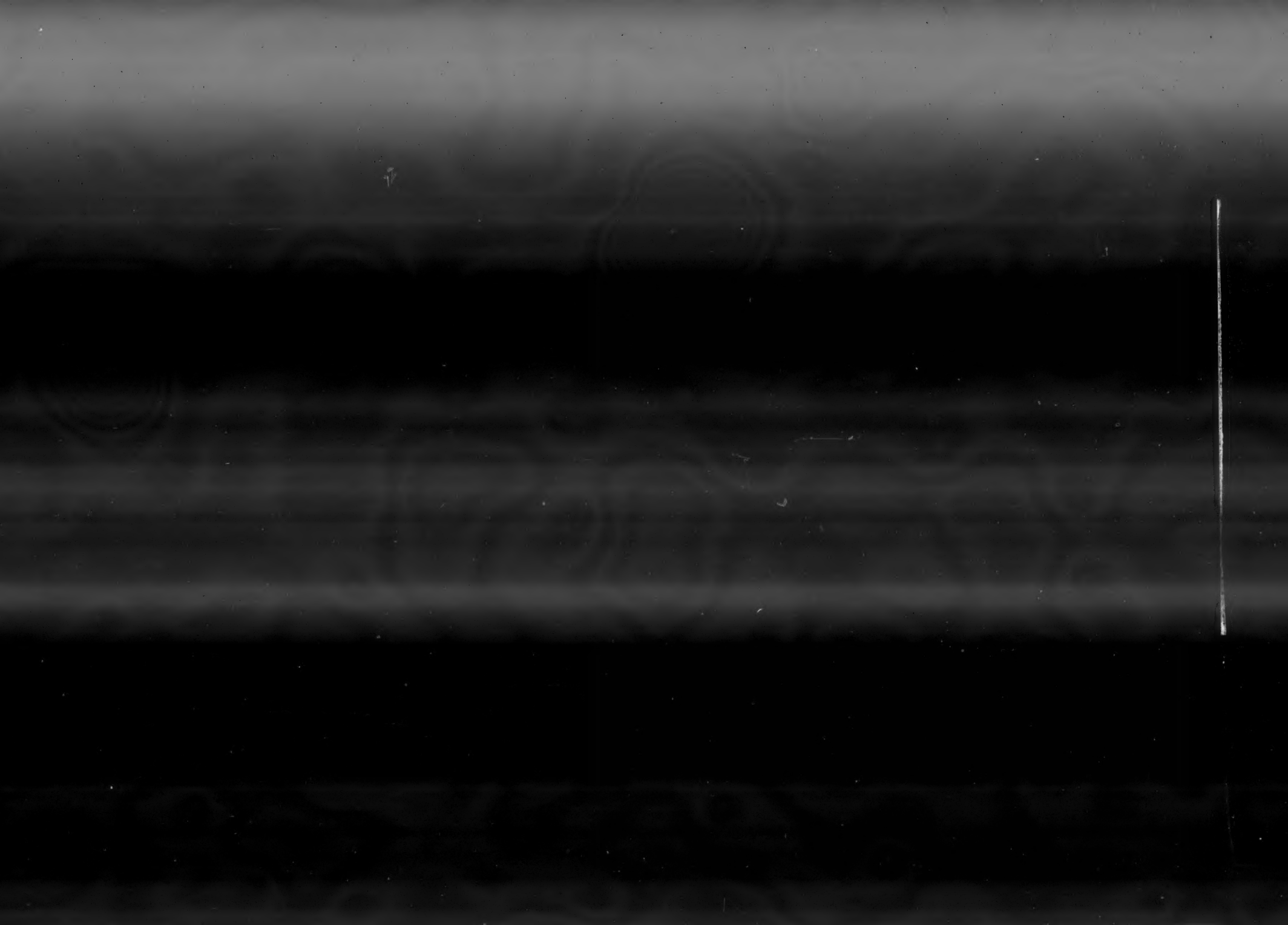
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